Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Fidel Castro Addresses Pastors for Peace

FL0508175393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Speech by Cuban President Fidel Castro during a ceremony marking the fifth anniversary of the Pastors for Peace organization in Havana on 3 August—recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades of the Presidency [presidencia], dear comrades of the Friendship Caravan and of the Pastors for Peace organization: I believe the only place in the world today where it is hotter than Mr. Walker's bus is here in this auditorium. [applause] I do not know whether we are short on electricity. I do not know whether the organizers wanted to save resources. I do not know whether the air conditioner lacks spare parts. I do not know whether someone wants to give us a more exact idea of hell, [chuckles] but the fact is that we are in the hottest place on earth.

Anyway, we feel compensated to some extent by knowing that we are sharing at least some small part of the sacrifice that Mr. Walker and the other 12 members of the caravan are making at this moment.

As has already been said, today is the fifth anniversary of the creation of the Pastors for Peace Organization. It is also five years since that terrible day when a delegation of Christians who had gone to Nicaragua to help were killed. Several people were killed and at least 30 were injured. I was told that Gail [Walker, daughter of hunger striker Lucius Walker] was just 10 centimeters away from one of the people who was killed [word indistinct].

Today, we also meet here not only to commemorate that date but also to hold a fraternal ceremony and to express our deepest appreciation to you for the solidarity that you have been extending to our people.

Logically, today we are not as happy as we would be if Lucius Walker and the other 12 members of the caravan were here with us. I believe that if hurts us that they are where they are, I am sure that they are happy at this moment because the rest of the caravan arrived victoriously in the country and that all the truckloads of goods and packages you collected in what was recently described as a caravan of ants, and that you were able to bring across that famous Laredo Bridge have already been loaded on the ship.

A good part of the task has already been accomplished. We hope the ship arrives without incident, because, as you may have heard, the last time the ship was caught in a big storm with enormous waves. Part of the ship's cargo was lost, but not the caravan's cargo. If I were the Reverend Suarez, I would say it was a divine signal that not one pound of the caravan's cargo was lost. [applause]

Nevertheless, the bus is not here. One could say that it is being held hostage and, basically, the comrades who are inside the bus are not here today. If we were to reflect on this situation we could ask: What justification can there be for such an action? What crime has been committed by those who are being held prisoner inside the bus? What crime have they committed against mankind or against the people? What crime have they committed against the honor and the grandeur of their own fatherland? What crime have they committed against the prestige of the United States? Why that action of force? Why was that bus confiscated? Why not take the small and simple step of allowing the school bus to pass? Why not return the battery that were taken from the school bus and a little of the air that was taken out of the tires, and let that school bus pass? With such an action the honor of the United States would be increased as well as its prestige. Friendship, peace, and mankind would stand to gain.

No one would lose anything by allowing that school bus to cross the border. Let us stop to think about the things that have passed across the border. Sometimes drugs are passed across the border in both directions. Weapons are sent across the border to all parts of the world to defend dishonorable causes. On occasion, weapons have crossed the border to defend honorable causes; but many times, unfortunately, weapons have crossed the border to defend causes that honor no one.

Just yesterday, I was reflecting with Rigoberta Menchu, a Guatemalan Indian, who was visiting our country, whose father was burned at the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala several years ago. Her mother was raped and murdered. They could not even bury her because she was devoured by animals. Two of her brothers were killed. A young woman who barely learned to read and write fought with so much tenacity against those injustices that today she has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

I was told by a journalist, who is writing a documentary on the life of Rigoberta Menchu, about the tens of thousands of crimes that have been committed in Guatemala. Total genocide. Tens of thousands of people have been murdered; tens of thousands of people are still missing. Tens of thousands! All this in a relatively small number of years to deprive them of their lands, to make them leave their land, and even their country. These are incredible things and actions.

Today someone was talking about the dirty war in Nicaragua. Thousands and thousands of people killed and mutilated without a reason or justification. Today we could talk about what happened in Chile, where thousands and thousands of people were killed or are still missing. We could talk about what happened in Argentina, where tens of thousands of people are still missing. We could talk about what happened in South Africa, where thousands and thousands of people are being murdered for racial reasons because it maintains such a hateful system as apartheid. We could give innumerable examples.

Have any of you ever heard anyone saying that a customs inspector on the U.S. border confiscated a rifle, a gun, or an airplane, or any of the hundreds of thousands of weapons, the hundreds of thousands of tons of war material, bombs, and explosives that were used in Guatemala and El Salvador to murder tens of thousands of people or that were used during the dirty war on Nicaragua or in other places such as Chile, Argentina, South Africa, and who knows how many other places? There was no blockade against anyone. None of the customs inspectors arrested anyone or detained anyone for a few hours, or seized any of those weapons that everyone knows crossed the U.S. border.

I do not see why they have seized this bus, which is to be used by the Martin Luther King Center to transport elderly citizens, children, and patients. What else could the center do with that school bus if not that?

Thirteen people are being detained there in unbearable heat, on a hunger strike, enduring the most humiliating conditions. What moral and ethical justification can this have? How can this increase the grandeur, glory, and honor of the United States? Who increases the grandeur, glory, and honor of the United States if not people like you, who have shouldered boxes and packages not to torture or take anyone's life, not to assassinate or kill anyone, but to help elderly people, children, and patients, and to help our people, who are being so unjustly blockaded.

If we were to analyze history with objectivity and we analyze what the Revolution has done for its people, if in other places there have been tens and tens of thousands of missing and murdered people, in our country you can only talk about the hundreds of thousands of children whose lives have been saved in the more than 30 years of revolution thanks to the public health services of the Revolution. [applause]

We could talk about the hundreds of thousands whose lives have been saved thanks to medical care of the Revolution. We could talk about the millions of people who have learned to read and write thanks to the efforts made by the Revolution. We could talk about the millions of people who obtained a real equality and justice. People who saw the end of the hateful discrimination due to race or sex. It is precisely through the work of the Revolution that this has happened.

Prolonged life. Nowadays Cuba has the highest life expectancy and the lowest infant mortality rate among all the Third World countries in spite of the blockade. [applause]

All this despite the blockade and despite the special period. Just yesterday almost 2,000 health workers graduated in a large theater of Havana. Most of them are doctors. The rest are dentists, and nurses. Those are from just the university schools in Havana. They all have their jobs guaranteed before graduating even though their salaries will be modest and even if the material goods they receive are modest, because this is a Third World country that has to develop itself, a country that is in a special period and a country that is, moreover, blockaded.

Just look at the efforts made by our people in all parts of the country under very difficult conditions. Today, our conditions are really more difficult than on the day when we received the first caravan. We have had very adverse weather conditions. We have suffered natural calamities like the famous storm of the century, which caused tremendous damage. We have had the neuropathy epidemic, a very cruel and tough epidemic which we have had to face and for which the blockade may possibly be greatly responsible, according to toxic and nutritional theories on the sickness.

The blockade makes progress in the country difficult. It makes it difficult for us to obtain resources. It makes it difficult for us to purchase food and medicine.

I apologize for having extended my remarks on these considerations, but I wanted to say why we highly value and greatly appreciate your behavior, conduct, and chivalry.

Some day, if future generations of Americans were to feel ashamed—as they surely will—of the fact that the authorities of their country imposed such cruel measures, acted so cruelly toward a small nation like Cuba, those same generations of Americans will surely be proud of what the Pastors for Peace have done, and what the Friendship Caravan has done. [rhythmic applause] You are salvaging your nation's sense of justice. You are salvaging your country's honor. I think it is absolutely impossible that you should fail to achieve your purpose sooner or later. I mean, I am certain that you will achieve your purpose. We will resist with all our strength, but even if some day, the enemies of justice, the enemies of our country's independence, those who continue to have an arrogant mentality were to manage to wipe Cuba off the face of the Earth, you would never be regretful and future generations would never regret the actions of those who helped a developing people, a courageous and just people, the Cuban people. [applause]

The example that you are setting will never be lost. The seed you are planting today will always bear fruit. You and those who come later will always have great cause for satisfaction and happiness.

They will feel honored with what you have done because your battle is not an easy one. It is a difficult battle. It is a very difficult battle when you have to face so much prejudice, so many falsehoods, lies, and manipulation that many of you know take place in the world.

As you know for 30 years, they have been planting lies to destroy the faith and trust of other people, to alienate the good will of the people of the United States. So we understand how difficult your struggle is. But when we see people like you that defy the lies, all the obstacles, and difficulties, our admiration is multiplied and you remind us of those who were your predecessors.

No one can say that you were few. More than 100 people came in the first caravan. In the second caravan more than 300 people came. And if it continues to snowball like this, perhaps someday we will receive 3,000 or 30,000, or 300,000 U.S. citizens in our country. [applause]

You remind us of your predecessors because they were fewer than you. They were the 12 apostles who were unknowns. At the time, there was no mass media. By their efforts and work, and their noble martyrdom, they were able to gradually conquer the hearts of many thousands of people, and later of millions. It is not necessary to repeat the history that all of you know so well of those men and women who, rather than renounce their faith and principles, would allow themselves to be devoured by lions.

Because of their feelings, ideas, and values—in spite of all the obstacles and even despite the fact that some of them abandoned their principles—they came to number in the hundreds of thousands, millions, tens of millions, and hundreds of millions of standard-bearers of these ideas and values. The 12 apostles triumphed and you too will triumph, [applause] no matter how long it takes, no matter when the triumph comes, whether defending a small country like Cuba today, or defending any other country tomorrow. Men, governments, and empires are temporary, but noble and fair ideas live on. They are eternal. Thank you very much.

Castro Says Country Best Prepared for Integration

PA0508134593 Paris AFP in Spanish 2203 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Caracas, 3 Aug (AFP)—The Venezuelan paper EL NACIONAL published in its anniversary edition comments attributed to President Fidel Castro to the effect that Cuba is the best prepared country in Latin America for integration. The newspaper presents the opinions expressed by heads of state, presidents of international organizations, and regional writers on Latin American integration

Inspired by a phrase written by Cuban patriot Jose Marti, Castro confesses in his article "Binding Stalks Into One Common Sheaf" that he favors "integrating in one united Latin America" and sharing his country's achievements in health, tourism, industry, and many other areas.

"Cuba is best prepared for regional integration because it is able to make any type of economic transaction and surmount political obstacles," Castro says after listing the tragic Latin American realities, which he uses as arguments for advancing toward integration.

"Confronted with the economic blocs, currently represented by the United States, the European Community, and Japan, we have the pathetic image of a divided, balkanized, and very backward Latin America that is hesitant in the integration process; a helpless Latin America," Castro concludes.

Faced with Latin America's considerable potential for integration, the Cuban leader points out "the contradiction between the huge resources of Latin America, which is one-seventh of the planet, and the extreme poverty of more than one-half of the 450 million people who inhabit it," that is, 270 million people living below the poverty line and 82 million in total destitution.

The Cuban leader adds that 42 million adults are illiterate, 12 million children do not receive any education, and seven million children under a year old die due to poverty.

"All those Latin American realities are related to the absence of regional integration and are arguments in favor of our urgent integration. The alternatives are clear: We either unite to become something or we will be nothing," he states.

Castro maintains that our attempts to integrate have been relative failures as trade among Latin American countries, which is the "concrete expression of our advances in integration," showed a reluctant increase from 12.8 percent to 15 percent between 1970 and 1992.

"More than 30 years after starting the integration process, the markets continue to be limited because our domestic markets are still meager. Multinational capital continues to reap most of the trade linked to integration and continues to be given too much importance in the preparation of proposals for our integration," Castro explains.

He adds that integration has also not reached specialized production agreements, economic policy coordination, the movement of the labor force and its access to labor among countries, or the accreditation of university titles, among other aspects.

Regarding U.S. initiatives to integrate the region in the Latin American economy "for use in the context of competition with the large blocs," Castro says it should be normal for Latin American to have a fluent economic relationship with the U.S. economy. [sentence as received]

He warns, however, that Latin America cannot base that relationship "on the rules and limits established by the United States to favor its own interests but on conditions that emerge from balanced negotiations, that have been sovereignly decided upon and jointly defended, and that have a Latin American orientation and projection."

Castro Arrival in Bolivia Announced

FL0508181893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, president of the Cuban Councils of State and of Ministers, arrived

in La Paz, Bolivia, at 1020 [1420 GMT] on 5 August to attend the Bolivian presidential inauguration.

Castro is making this visit at the invitation of the present Bolivian Government, headed by Jaime Paz Zamora, to be present at the transfer of presidential command to Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada.

Prolonged Power Outages Reported in Several Municipalities

PA0508204193 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1922 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Havana, 5 Aug (NOTIMEX)—In the last 24 hours the Electric Union [Union Electrica] has increased power outages in several of Cuba's 169 municipalities, with some outages lasting as long as 20 hours, it was learned here on 5 August.

The lack of fuel has the National Electric System on the verge of collapse, leaving the Cuban capital in the dark and forcing authorities to implement power outages in some priority sectors, such as international tourism.

Half-light has become the light of the island. The balconies and streets are now bedrooms for thousands of Cubans who seek a breath of air on warm nights, and refrigerators remain turned off and empty.

Levin Ramon, deputy director of the Electric Union, confirmed on 5 August that the severe power outages will continue given the "limited fuel" in thermoelectric plants.

"The suspension of electric service have been severely increased beyond what had been planned in all provinces," said the official of the state-owned electric service company.

He stated that demand for electricity has increased in the last month due to high temperatures, which force citizens to use air conditioners and electric stoves.

Livio Ramon confirmed that several sectors that had been given priority status by the government and which had not previously been affected began to experience interruptions on 3 August.

Several restaurants that offer exclusive services to foreign tourists were closed on 4 August due to a lack of electricity.

Since 28 July, two days after the anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks, the local authorities increased power rationing on the island to 12 hours due to a lack of fuel.

The power outages have been more severe in the past 24 hours; there have been outages of up to 20 hours in several of the island's 169 municipalities.

The serious food shortages have been sharpened by the constant outages that do not allow the little food obtained in state warehouses and on the black market to be refrigerated.

The blackouts are also making the community irritable as the people are unable to find relief from the heat with electric fans. Thousands of people are sleeping on balconies and in the streets.

The electricity problem is the core of the current Cuban economic crisis and the most difficult aspect to solve.

Electric Union Official Discusses Unscheduled Outages

FL0508231293

[Editorial Report] Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish at 1700 GMT on 5 August carries, on the cast entitled, "National Radio News," a six-minute interview with Electric Union Deputy Director Lidio Ramon in which Ramon discusses the new, unscheduled power outages.

Asked why the electricity situation is deteriorating, Ramon explains that the new cuts are mostly due to the fuel shortage, although other factors also come into play such as increased consumption due to the very hot weather and to the use of electric stoves for cooking because of the unavailability of other types of fuel. Ramon says: "Because we are unable to generate more electricity, we must effect service, must alter the outages that so greatly inconvenience and irritate people."

Asked what new measures might be taken to alleviate the situation, Ramon says that many measures are already in effect nationwide, and that these measures will need to be taken further to reduce electricity consumption during these critical times. He adds that it has been necessary to deliberately curtail certain activities in order to guarantee services that are considered priority, services vital to the population: food production, water distribution, hospitals, bakeries, cold-storage facilities.

Asked when an improvement in the situation might be expected, Ramon notes that the announcer has asked "a difficult question," adding: "This situation, with outages above and beyond those scheduled, is unavoidable at the present time, and will continue in the immediate future." He says the situation could improve if more fuel were to become available. "The country is doing all it can to have fuel arrive," states Ramon, but adds: "Electric service will continue to be severely affected, with cuts above and beyond those scheduled, until the current conditions improve."

The announcer asks to what extent Cuban crude oil is being used. Ramon answers that over 30 percent of the total amount of fuel used by the thermoelectric plants in the first 6 months of 1993 had been Cuban crude, specifying that over 440,000 tons of Cuban crude has been used by the thermolectric plants to-date.

The announcer says listeners are very insistent about when they should expect the outage in their area. They want to know if these outages are in any way scheduled in the different provinces. Ramon explains that each province draws up its own outage schedule, taking into account a number of factors, such as energy availability in that province, what the priority activities are, and what services are vital and must be guaranteed for that province's population. He adds that since not all provinces are alike, rotational outages in both the state and residential sectors are scheduled according to the characteristics of each province.

"We have tried to allocate the outages more or less equally nationwide," explains Ramon, adding that for many reasons, the Electric Union has not always succeeded. Ramon explains that one province might mechanically milk more cows than another, or possess more cold-storage facilities or food-production sites, or be a greater water source, or have more priority circuits such as in hospitals, airports, and beach areas, "which must not be affected."

The announcer thanks Ramon for appearing on the newscast.

Candido Palmero Interviewed on Agricultural Situation

FL0508235593 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Interview with Candido Palmero, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Havana Province, by Marisela Escoto, place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Palmero] The state of nonsugarcane agriculture in Havana Province is good considering the economic situation we are enduring, and the weather. In other words, we have practically completed the spring campaign. The plan called for 1,990 caballerias. Of this, the most difficult was planting 485 caballerias of yams. By the end of July, however, we had 430 planted. In other words, we have 45 more to go this month. This is still within the plan. We believe we will meet this goal. The yams are free of weeds and looking good. They are well tended, thanks particularly to the help of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, which has provided over 3,000 soldiers who have done an outstanding job. They have basically planted yams.

The plantain planting campaign is underway. We have over 500 microjet plantain caballerias. They are free of weeds and well tended; all the required care has been provided. They are recovering quite well from the storm, but we are lacking water. In other words, we lack the fuel to irrigate the plantain. Corn—we have planted over 450 caballerias. The plan called for 450, and we planted 452 caballerias of corn. Corn is now beginning to yield, although it is not as we expected because it has lacked water. The weather has been adverse. Over 120 caballerias of pumpkins were planted. In general, the state, as well as individual growers, have made an effor. to fulfill the guidelines provided by our commander in chief regarding this program.

[Escoto] Regarding the forthcoming winter campaign, Palmero pointed out:

[Palmero] We are preparing for the winter campaign that begins now with the seed beds. This is what we discussed this morning with the private sector and advisers to the executive committee. As I said to the farmers a few moments ago, we always hope that the times will be better and the campaign will improve.

Anyhow, we are not pleased so far with the results of agriculture in terms of collection. However, we are happy with the effort and work being done in this regard. This is what I can tell you. Undoubtedly, in the final months of this year the collection is going to be higher due to the yield of those yams, plantains, and cabbage that we are going to start planting, as well as other products such as yucca and malanga, which are already growing and clear of weeds. They are only awaiting rain.

[Escoto] Regarding the present shortage of agricultural products at the minimarkets in Havana, Palmero said:

[Palmero] This is the result, first of all, of the storm. Everybody knows this, but has forgotten about it. It felled 1.6 million plantain plants and almost all were bearing fruit. The plantain plantations have not recovered yet. At the end of the year there should be much more plantain available. This is one reason. The other one is the weather. There are other products such as pumpkin that have bloomed but have not produced, due to the lack of rain. We have not had the fuel or resources to irrigate every field. Corn is beginning to bear ears now. These months have been unfortunate, but luckily, thanks to the efforts of the people of Havana and Havana Province, we have tubers. Potatoes are arriving and are regulated. We know the situation is going to improve from this point on.

ANPP Permanent Defense Commission Created in Havana

FL0608013793 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 0109 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Deputies belonging to the Interior Ministry, the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and other institutions and organizations are included in the Permanent Defense Commission of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP] that was created in Havana. Politburo members Ricardo Alarcon, president of the ANPP; and Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro, vice minister of the FAR and chief of the General Staff; participated in the meeting that marked the creation of the commission. The Permanent Defense Commission is headed by Brigadier General Guillermo Rodriguez del Pozo, chief of the General Staff of the Civil Defense. The vice president is Cesar Varela, president of

the People's Government Assembly in Plaza Municipality, Havana. The secretary is Jose Maria Perez.

Radio Progreso To Receive 'Sophisticated' Transmitter

FT05081453793 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Report by (Sai Tabares)]

[Text] [Tabares] We are here at daybreak at the site of the Radio Progreso 50-kw transmitter in Guanabacoa. Friends of Radio Progreso, the Cuban family's radio station, know that for the past several days there have been problems with the Radio Progreso transmissions. That is why we have come to the transmitter site. A brigade has been working for the past several hours to offer better service to our listeners and, of course, to improve the quality of our transmissions.

I am accompanied by technician Jesus Visozo, head of the Maintenance Department. Good morning, Visozo.

[Visozo] Good morning.

[Tabares] What is the cause of the problems that Radio Progreso is experiencing with its shortwave transmissions?

[Visozo] Basically, when it was decided to do certain work here at Radio Progreso, we realized that in having to turn off the station, with its basic 50-kw transmitter, we would have power losses and consequently would lose transmissions in the city. That is because it was necessary to transfer the emergency generator to another transmitter; therefore, this transmitter lost the back-up power that it usually has—in other words, its emergency generator for such cases. This transmitter, which is being used for Radio Progeso's programming at this time, does not have back-up power. Therefore, basically, the problems are due to the power shortages that have been occurring in the capital quite often, as we all know.

[Tabares] Visozo, give us details about the complex job that is being done here at the Radio Progreso transmitter.

[Visozo] Actually, the work as a whole is complex, because it involves setting up not only a new transmitter, a sophisticated 50-kw transmitter, but also the structures required for broadcasting—the tower and antenna and some other structures. In other words, here at the station we are utilizing primarily the main building. Everything else requires new investment; both the outside structures—the tower and antenna—and the new transmitter that is being set up. The Radio Progreso transmitter that previously existed at this site was over 40 years old and was practically at the end of its useful life, so it was decided to make this new investment.

[Tabares] To complement the information provided by technician Jesus Visozo, head of the Maintenance Department at the site of the 50-kw Radio Progreso transmitter in Guanabacoa, where there have been transmission difficulties, I am now going to talk with Engineer Jose Leon, an expert in the Department of Investments. He is in charge of all the technical work that is being done here. How are you doing, and how complex is the job from the viewpoint of the brigade that is setting up the transmitter and everything else that is being done so that all Radio Progreso friends will be able to hear our station with great quality very soon?

[Leon] We can say that the work is being done in two parts: One part involves what we call the interior plan, namely, the assembly of the new transmitters. At this station, in addition to the Radio Progreso transmitter, we are going to set up another 50-kw transmitter for Radio Rebelde. This has been done to improve transmission quality, because Radio Progreso's former transmitter had been in use for some 40 years and the new transmitters are very modern. At the same time, however, they are very complex to assemble because they involve a thousand minutiae in the grounding systems, that is, for protection against lightning.

Thus, in addition to setting up the two transmitters, it is necessary to change the antenna system. The antenna system formerly worked with a single transmitter. Now that there will be two transmitters, on two different frequencies, there must be a change in what is called the transmitter guy-ropes [vientos].

[Tabares] You have given what I consider a very detailed explanation to all our listeners. After this problem has been resolved—it is clearly a very complex task—what advantages will there be to our listeners as far as hearing our station clearly and with the good quality that our people deserve?

[Leon] The main advantage will be in the quality of the transmission, because these are state-of-the-art, completely different equipment. The quality is greatly superior to that of a transmitter from 50 years ago. The construction consists of a number of parallel modules that make it possible for the transmitter to remain functional even if one part is broken. In other words, its reliability increases enormously, independently of whether the station has back-up power and a generator. The transmitter will not require back-up transmitters as was the case in the past, because, being made of different modules, it serves as its own back-up. It is even possible to remove some parts of the transmitter for separate maintenance without taking the transmitter off the air. In the final analysis, there should be much greater reliability and quality.

[Tabares] Thank you very much. You were listening to Eng. Jose Leon, an expert in the Department of Investments, who is in charge of technical matters at the site of the Radio Progreso 50-kw transmitter in Guanabacoa.

Skirmish Between Police, Civilians Leaves Five Dead

PA0608042193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0300 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Aug (EFE)—At least five people dead and tens injured is the toll of a clash that took place today, Thursday, 6 August, between the police and residents of Jonacatepec, south of Mexico City. The clash lasted 17 hours and ended after Morelos State Governor Antonio Riva Palacio personally spoke to the town's residents and pledged to punish the policemen accused by the people of abusing their authority, a source at the mayor's office stated.

Two of those killed were policemen and the rest were civilians, one of whom died at the hospital following the skirmish.

During the incident, the residents set fire to an area of prison and some tires, overturned five vehicles, including two belonging to the police, and caused minor damage to the municipal palace and the local public prosecutor's office.

In the early morning hours of today someone rang the town's bells to rally the residents and face the police, who allegedly had attacked some drunken civilians involved in a street fight. According to witnesses, the skirmish ensued when a small group of policemen sought to restore order. In the confusion, several shots were fired, killing two policemen and two civilians.

The rioters held local public prosecutor Tomas Flores hostage for several hours. He suffered some contusions when trying to calm the townspeople. Two policemen were dismissed, and Flores was suspended. Eight policemen held by the residents were beaten and locked in a police precinct.

PRI Presents Formal Proposal for Political Reform

PA0608023393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1608 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Mexico, 4 Aug (AFP)—The local press has reported today that the Institutional Revolutionary Party of Mexico (PRI, 64 years in power) on the night of 3 August presented a formal proposal for political reform that includes some points the opposition has been demanding for some time.

The five-point project proposes enlarging the Senate by allowing four legislators from each state, with which that body would pass from having 64 seats to having 128 seats, whereas, for the Chamber of Deputies, it proposes that no political party be allowed to have more than 63 percent of the total number of seats.

The PRI proposal comes one year before the next presidential elections and after several years of the elections being labelled antidemocratic by the opposition.

The project also proposes that the Chamber of Deputies assume the duties of an electoral college to evaluate the election of the president of the republic and that its resolution be "definitive and unquestionable." It also proposes the elimination of the self-evaluation of the election of senators and deputies, which should be sanctioned by the Federal Electoral Tribunal.

Another point in the proposal gives a constitutional standing to the amounts for financing of parties and the cost of their electoral campaigns.

The PRI initiative was well received, in principle, by opposition parties, including the National Action Party (PAN, conservative) which considers, however, that the proposal did not include a modification to Article 82 of the Constitution, which states that, in order to be president, it is necessary to be Mexican by birth and born of parents who are Mexican by birth.

The Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD, center-left-wing) has demanded that political reform be carried out with participation by all parties through a "summit of parties" which should include the participation of Mexican President Carlos Salinas.

The Congress, dominated by the PRI, will discuss the proposal during the next extraordinary session, expected to begin in mid-August.

Congress Preparing Session To Discuss Electoral Reforms

PA0608010993 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] On 11 August, the Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress will announce an extraordinary session for 16 August that will analyze and possibly approve Mexican electoral reforms. This announcement was made by Maria de los Angeles Moreno, president of the Great Commission of the Chamber of Deputies.

For their part, opposition legislators said that the PRI's [Institutional Revolutionary Party] proposal to modify the five constitutional articles is a good starting point for discussions.

The next extraordinary session, during which political-electoral reform will be discussed, could begin on 16 August as reported by the Permanent Commission of the Chamber of Deputies. Maria de los Angeles Moreno, president of the lower chamber, made this statement, adding that on 11 August, the Permanent Commission will meet to call the extraordinary session for 16 August.

In the meantime, the PRI proposal that five constitutional articles be amended to promote electoral reform was supported by opposition legislators.

[Begin recording] [Deputy Cecilia Soto of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution, identified by caption] We believe this is a very important step. I do believe

there are serious proposals now before us to try to reach a consensus and offer the citizenry genuine political reform.

[Senator Roberto Robles Garnica of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, identified by caption] All this must be discussed a lot more so that there is authentic electoral reform that may lead to credible elections. [end recording]

The proposal was also supported by PRI senators who at first opposed their party's support for opening the Senate to minorities.

[Begin PRI Senator Leonardo Rodriguez Alcaine recording; identified by caption] I believe these adjustments are good and will be viable. But I would like to clarify that in the beginning I opposed those proposals because I did not know exactly what they were about. [end recording]

The legislators stated that although the proposal represents an advance it is necessary to make some changes to it.

President Closes Mining Assembly; Progress Noted

PA0508125293 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] On 2 August, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari declared closed the Ordinary General Assembly of the Mining Chamber of Mexico.

Emilio Lozoya Thalman, secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry, reported that during the current administration 74 percent of the country's mining areas has passed into the hands of private enterprise.

Important announcements with regard to mining were made on 2 August at this meeting.

The government of the Republic will release 1.3 million hectares of mining land. This number increases the amount of land that has been passed to private enterprises in this sector to almost 11 million hectares. From 1988 to this date, 74 percent of the mining land retained by the government of the Republic has been released.

Emilio Lozoya Thalman, secretary of energy, mines, and parastate industry, reported this to President Carlos Salinas.

The chief of the Executive Branch closed the 56th Ordinary General Assembly of the Mining Chamber of Mexico at the Los Pinos official residence.

Secretary Lozoya added that 32 agreements for the release of the additional hectares that corresponds to states like Jalisco, Oaxaca, and Guerrero were published in the official gazette.

[Begin Lozoya recording] This is an investment of 980 million new pesos. [end recording]

Secretary Lozoya said during the meeting that in 1993 and 1994, as per the new legal dispositions, the mining companies will begin 13 exploitation projects, which represent an investment of 980 million new pesos.

He said the mining law, in its current form, provides rationality for the concessions regime and encourages participation of private investors in this economic field.

Humberto Gutierrez, of the Mining Chamber of Mexico, reported that investment by private enterprise in this sector over the last three years amounted to over $1.2 million. He asked the president to eliminate payment of royalties for the use of water, ease procedures for obtaining permits for the use of explosives, and encourage construction of infrastructure in order to bolster the competitiveness of the local miners with international industry.

El Salvador

FMLN Reportedly Concludes UN Weapons Surrender

PA0508185993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1909 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] San Salvador, 4 Aug (AFP)—The former Salvadoran guerrilla organization Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) on 4 August sent a report to the United Nations certifying that it has concluded the surrender of weapons that were not destroyed during the first phase of the peace agreements' execution, according to former rebel leaders.

Gerson Martinez, a top FMLN representative, said the report sent to the United Nations contains "a complete diagram and details concerning military logistics residuals and remnants" that were hidden in El Salvador and abroad.

The FMLN leader said: "We have closed the weapons file" because all the military "residuals" the FMLN owned have already been surrendered to the United Nations.

A spokesman for UN Observers for El Salvador pointed out that UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali will study the FMLN report and then prepare another report for the Security Council, which will decide whether or not the information is satisfactory.

The weapons, the amount of which Martinez did not disclose, should have been surrendered prior to 15 December as established in the peace agreements signed in January 1992, but the FMLN admitted in a communique that due to "distrust" over the future of the pacification process, several arsenals remained hidden.

Following the conclusion of the demobilization of almost 10,000 guerrillas, the United Nations on 14 December accredited the FMLN as a disarmed group so that it could be registered as a political party by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

An explosion on 23 May in the Santa Rosa neighborhood in the Nicaraguan capital revealed an arsenal maintained by the Farabundo Marti Peoples Liberation Forces, one of five FMLN organizations.

In the arsenal Nicaraguan authorities found 19 surface-to-air missiles, over 1,000 rifles, five tons of explosives, one ton of ammunition and other war materiel.

After the arsenal discovery, Salvadoran right-wing political parties requested the revocation of the FMLN's accreditation as a political party, but the United Nations granted the former rebels a new 45-day deadline that expires on 4 August to surrender all the weapons that were not included in the original inventory.

Martinez added that the UN is already aware of the location of the arsenals that were not surrendered until 4 August, four of which are in Nicaragua and one in Honduras.

Martinez asked the Salvadoran Government to give the United Nations an inventory of the more than 8,000 weapons the Army seized from the guerrillas during the 12-year civil war, in accordance with an arrangement in the peace agreements that so far has not been fulfilled.

Former commander Joaquin Villalobos, one of the FMLN's top leaders, this week sent a letter to Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro admitting that the former Salvadoran rebels "acted irresponsibly" by concealing weapons in Nicaragua, where several arsenals were dismantled between May and June.

Martinez admitted that the discovery of the arsenals "has definitely had a negative impact on the FMLN's credibility," although "despite everything the FMLN is a growing organization and one of the most widely accepted political forces in the country."

Guatemala

President Reorganizes Command Staff

PA0608043393 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 5 Aug 93

[From the "Teleprensa" newscast]

[Text] President Ramiro de Leon Carpio announced on 5 August that the Presidential Command Staff [Estado Mayor Presidencial] has been reorganized. The president made this announcement during a news conference held in the company of the chief of the General Staff of the National Defense and the chief of the Presidential Command Staff.

[Begin recording] [De Leon Carpio, in progress] ...I have called this news conference to announce that the Presidential Command Staff has been reorganized and that the Security Department, known as Archives, has been eliminated as part of the reorganization.

I would like to brief you on the history of the Presidential Command Staff and the decision to reorganize this staff.

Regarding its history, I would like to recall that in 1823, the Constituent National Assembly issued a decree dated 15 July 1823 creating this staff. That decree established what the functions of the Executive Branch would be, where it would reside, and duties of the forces assigned to protect this state branch. Later, Article 11 of Decree 124 dated 16 May 1891 of the Guatemalan National Legislative Assembly stipulated that the Presidential Command Staff would be part of the Army. Later, Decree 1729—or the Constituting Law of the Army—of 24 September 1935 nominated this corps, the Presidential Command Staff, the name it has had until now.

The mission of the Presidential Command Staff is to provide security, technical, administrative support to the constitutional president and his family so that they may effectively conduct their activities.

I am going to explain the reasons for and the scope of the restructuring. I have decided, with basis on the austerity program, planning for the efficient utilization of resources, and the policy of honesty dictated by the president from the very beginning of this administration, and so as to begin this effort at my own doorstep, to reorganize the Presidential Command Staff as follows:

1. Eliminate the Security Department, also known as Archives. A commission will study the suitability of creating either a national security council or a state intelligence organization. This kind of group is a necessity, and all countries have one of their own.

2. Complete invalidation of identification cards issued by the Security Department. As you may remember, this department was often accused of criminal activities because of the way these cards were being used. We know that this happened because many people misused the cards. Because of this, we have invalidated identification cards issued by this department.

3. Regarding the Administrative Department, we have ordered the elimination of several jobs. There are too many people on the support staff, and we must make more efficient use of the state's scarce resources. Those jobs eliminated represent approximately 60 percent of all Administrative Department slots.

4. Regarding vacant slots, under the austerity measures already outlined, we have eliminated vacant slots. This means that no one will be appointed to those posts.

5. We have ordered national police and treasury police agents detailed to the Presidential Command Staff to return to their respective security corps so that they may contribute to the citizens' security and fight violence for the benefit of the Guatemalan people. Guatemala does not have enough policemen to fulfill its constitutional mission of defending public security; this is why we are trying to strengthen the police force. We are strengthening it, for the time being, by giving it more people. We are contributing to this endeavor by ordering the return of police agents detailed to the Presidential Command Staff to their respective corps. This involves about about 85 policemen and 13 treasury policemen. Only essential personnel will remain in the service of the presidency. This includes only policemen who man Presidential Palace patrols and who operate escort vehicles for president and his retinue.

I want to explain that the purpose of these measures is to earmark and better utilize the scarce resources of the government. This does not represent a weakening but a strengthening of state organizations and institutions by promoting greater efficiency and the rational use of resources.

I hope that I can consider the restructuring of the Presidential Command Staff, a much debated issue, closed after concluding that this department very responsibly fulfills a useful function: that of providing security, technical, and administrative support, as I said earlier, to the president and his family so that they may effectively conduct their duties. This is a responsibility being fulfilled by the Guatemalan Army, practically speaking, since the Presidential Command Staff is a special corps of the Guatemalan Army, one appointed to serve the president.

I repeat: We want to close the book on restructuring by saying that within the framework of the country's laws this staff has specific functions. With this restructuring we are also heeding recommendations from UN adviser Professor Christian Tomuschat.

[First unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] I have clearly said that the media has reported the legal loopholes in this. Not even prestigious legal experts can agree on whether there is a legal basis for this recourse, the so-called pardon recourse, which no longer exists in the Constitution.

I am talking about procedures only. As a former member of the Constituent Assembly, as chairman of the Commission of the Group of 30, which drafted the Constitution, and as former alternate-president of the Constituent Assembly, I can speak as an authentic Constituent Assembly legislator. I remember that idea behind disposing of that recourse was to take away from the president the responsibility of deciding on issues discussed by the various judicial branch levels—from the lower courts, appeals courts, repeat courts, all the way to the Constitutional Court—the highest constitutional justice tribunal.

Then the argument was that if legal procedures had been followed, if the case had been properly tried, and if a person had been given an appropriate sentence, it was not fair that one man, because he happens to be the president of the republic, should make life or death decisions about another person.

This is the purely constitutional part. That recourse is out of the Constitution. However, currently there are discussions about whether this recourse is still valid in ordinary law, like the Executive Branch law, the Penal Code, and other ordinary laws.

There is an international human rights instrument—the American Human Rights Convention—that includes this recourse. But there is no legal certainty about this. This is why I have appealed to the Constitutional Court, and I may appeal to Congress also, through another mechanism, so that I may clarify the legal basis of this recourse.

It will not be until then that the president, on the basis of legal clarity and certainty, will decide whether to consider the pardon recourse case. I cannot irresponsibly

take it up and adopt a decision, regardless of what my decision could be. I must be completely certain, legally speaking, about the legality of the recourse.

[Second unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] Regarding your first question, we are not talking about a purge here. I have clearly stated that we are reorganizing the special corps assigned to the Presidency of the Republic.

As for your second question, I was going to announce the appointments, but unfortunately there are people who are quick to criticize but who are not willing to assume responsibilities when they are asked to participate and cooperate. You have no idea how difficult it is to get people with experience or the necessary qualifications to accept government posts—and I do not mean a difficult post such as National Police director. This is the reason for the delay. Many people criticize and talk but when they are asked to participate and take responsibilities, it seems very few of us are willing to accept the challenge and [word indistinct].

[Third unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] That is not true, and I say this to you with all due respect. I have recordings of my public speeches and statements and can verify my position. I have always held a clear stand and have not changed my position in any way now. I have said, first, that we have to study the situation completely and investigate the participation of the Voluntary Civilian Committee members or as they were previously called, the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols, thoroughly. You would probably be surprised, as I was surprised, to see the amount of people who have joined the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols voluntarily. Moreover, many of them have not only joined voluntarily but are satisfied with their work in the organization. The reason for this—and I have talked to them about the matter—is that they feel important. Possibly, for the first time, the peasants and Indians who join the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols feel their work in meaningful. They feel they are important to the Guatemalan Army and people. This is a very logical and normal reaction. I have stated, however, that there have been cases where the people were forced to participate and this is unconstitutional.

This is one point. The other is that I have stated and reiterate now that the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols fulfill a duty. I repeat that what you have stated is not true and I can prove it with the recordings of my statements. I have videos of my talks, conferences, and statements to the media. Militarily speaking, the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols fulfill a duty. On 4 August, I said that we cannot ask that they be dismantled while the internal armed confrontation continues. I believe any Guatemalan with common sense will agree that we cannot talk about dissolving the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols until we reach an agreement with the rebel groups. We also cannot talk about readjustments in the Army, etc., and other topics of an operational nature at this time. The rebels have not even accepted the government's peace proposal and much less agreed to sit at a negotiating table to discuss the topics in our proposal.

Last, as I also stated when I was the human rights ombudsman and likewise ratify today that the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols indeed fulfill a duty of a strictly military nature. If it were not for [words indistinct] we would surely have another situation with regard to raids and advancements by the rebel groups. They have kept the rebel groups at bay. I, however, have stated and reiterate now that several members of the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols have abused their authority and committed crimes and human rights violations. We must not allow this to occur. We must apply the law to counter such events.

In the recent case, however, we still do not have a clear account of what happened. There are two versions. We must first report that one person was killed and three injured in the mentioned case. It was initially reported as a massacre. It was an unfortunate event. A human life is valuable and has as much value as two, five, 10, or 1,000 human lives. It is, however, a different story to say that one person was killed and two injured during the incident than to say that there was a massacre. We are investigating the case and the law will be applied to those who are responsible for the crimes.

[Fourth unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct]

[De Leon] Yes, of course, the minute they are no longer needed from a strategic and military standpoint. Then I would also ask guerrillas to allow economic and social development of those areas where people complain they cannot go about their business because of the guerrilla (?actions) and because they are not allowed to develop in peace. This is something to be handled in our usual straightforward manner.

The minute an agreement of this nature is reached, PAC [Civilian Self-Defense Patrols] will no longer have to be armed and will perform other duties. Then they will have other missions if the residents want. Some people have asked me that when peace comes, or the shooting stops, the PAC should serve, if that is what they want, for the development of community, because of their excellent and functional organization. This the situation right now. Anybody talking about dissolving the PAC does not really know they have a mission to perform. So long as we have a domestic armed conflict and strife-torn areas, where the PAC are performing that mission, we cannot talk of dissolving them. [Fifth unidentified reporter] [Words indistinct] [De Leon] When I served as ombudsman, I mentioned the specific cases that had to be named. I am specifically referring to the mail snooping case, for example, [words indistinct] several years, which I when I brought it up. When I had the opportunity to meet with UN human rights expert Christian Tomuschat we agreed the credentials were part of the problem and the accusations were another part, since in Guatemala someone has to be held responsible.

A presidential staff catches one's attention, and those are not my words but Tomuschat's. [end recording]

President Removes Nine Regional Military Commanders

PA0508142493 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 3 Aug 93 p 3

[Text] President Ramiro De Leon Carpio confirmed that nine colonels who were military zone commanders were removed on 2 August as part of a new government readjustment policy.

The president also announced other changes in the Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise, the National Agricultural Development Bank, the banking superintendency, National Police general director, as well as the removal of 22 governors.

The president explained during a news conference that he has implemented a plan to combat corruption and clean up public administration. He said he has instructed all his ministers to purge their respective portfolios, beginning with the National Police.

The president added that the changes include replacing acting Police Director Mariano Carpio, who is currently facing charges in the case involving some Cajola peasants. The president did not announce the name of the new National Police director. However, he did disclose that Jose Alejandro Arevalo Alburez would be appointed new banking superintendent.

According to the president, it would be politically unwise to reveal the names of the officials to be appointed.

With respect to improving the Armed Forces, De Leon Carpio said it must be made "more suitable to current circumstances to support government actions."

According to information disclosed by Army Spokesperson Major Edith Vargas Marroquin, the removed colonels include Chiquimula Commander Colonel Mario Lopez Serrano; Retalhuleu Commander. Col. Florencio Castellanos; Army Commissary Manager Col. Jose Isauro Oiva; and Col. Rigoberto Salaza Garcia, manager of the Military Social Security Institute.

The removed officers also include Col. Luis Alfonso Imeri, Guatemalan Air Force second commander; Cuilapa Military Commander Col. Mario Vinicio Gomez Castellanos; Col. Julio Roberto Trejo, military attache in Venezuela; Solola Military Commander Col. Hugo Leonel Aguilar Barillas; Salama Commander Col. Eduardo Arevalo Lacs.

The president stipulated that he decided to make the changes in the military hierarchy after meeting with the military high command. He added that the government's new style foresees a struggle against impunity by adhering to austerity measures and reassigning public expenditures, and within that context "there would be a purge."

Civilian Appointments

The president swore in six new government officials on 2 August and announced that Jose Alejandro Arevalo Alburez would soon be officially appointed the new banking superintendent.

The new government officials recently sworn in include: Dr. Orlando Brolo, president of the Guatemalan Social Security Institute board of directors; Juan Carlos Godoy Herrera, National Environmental Council coordinator; Jose Rodriguez Weber, director of the Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriated People; Jorge Gonzalez Cabrera Hurtarte, president of the Presidential Commission for the Coordination of Human Rights Affairs [COPREDE]; COPREDE Executive Director Dennis Alonzo Mazariegos; and COPREDE Deputy Director Ramses Segundo Cuesta Galvez.

Interview With Defense Minister Enriquez

PA0608140293 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Aug p 8

[Interview with Defense Minister General Mario Rene Enriquez Morales by Eddy Rolando Alfaro and Karl Yvan Arevalo V.; place and date not given]

[Text] [PRENSA LIBRE] What issues do you believe played a decisive role in the president's decision to appoint you defense minister?

[Enriquez] I believe one of the things that led him to appoint me was that I had the grade and seniority and I was next in line after those who preceded me.

[PRENSA LIBRE] How do you envision the Army at present and in the medium- and long-term?

[Enriquez] The truth is that the way I envision the Army's functions and mission in the short-, medium- and long-term has a lot to do with the existence or nonexistence of the armed confrontation that has brought so much grief and mourning to Guatemala.

I would like the counterinsurgency effort that has been under way for a long time to end at once. Once that effort ends, in addition to fulfilling its constitutional mission, the Army will devote itself to helping the poorest sectors develop and work on infrastructure, primarily in rural area where communities are isolated.

In the medium-term, when the counterinsurgency effort ends, the Army will be devoted exclusively to fulfilling its constitutional mission. It can also work on reforestation; the protection of our lumber resources and the Guatemalan jungle; it can support and maintain the Mayan biosphere and prevent any further depredation of our archaeological heritage.

The Army will also build penetration roads to take development to the remotest areas. There is a great deal of work to be done; the reforestation of Chixoy Basin alone requires a very great effort and I believe that with

discipline and without the annoyance of subversion, it will be easy to accomplish these tasks.

[PRENSA LIBRE] What do you think of reducing the Army's size?

[Enriquez] I already have plans for that. I have even prepared a Master Plan for Military Education. Some day the director of the Military Training Center (CEM) will be able to speak to you and expand on that plan. We have a Master Plan for Military Transmissions; in fact we have foreseen and planned a promising future for the Armed Forces, which intends to support every aspect of national development.

Once the internal armed confrontation ends, I believe there will be room for certain military readjustments. We may even think of exchanging quantity in number for quality of life in the Army, thereby improving the lives of our soldiers and the conditions under which they work, because they have really experienced a great deal of suffering.

The Army, like most Guatemalans, is very, very poor and more so because, unlike other armies, we have not received international aid.

[PRENSA LIBRE] Is it true that some military officers supported President Serrano for staging the coup d'etat?

[Enriquez] In the first place, we must be clear that President Serrano expressed publicly to the national and international public that it was something he was doing on his own initiative.

Serrano reiterated that it was a course of civilian action to solve a civilian problem. Don't you think that if the Army was involved in it the defense minister would have signed the agreement? He did not sign it. If the military high command had been involved, the defense minister, Army chief of staff, and high command officers would have appeared behind Serrano when he announced the elimination of the Legislative and Judicial Branches, the Constitutionality Court, and the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office.

No military officers were present during that event. In addition, Serrano was offered a great deal of advice. I told him: "Mr. President, must we view this as a break in the democratization process as a means to consolidate it? I asked him this and he said it was so. It was a personal decision. He even said: "If you do not accept these measures, then stage a coup d'etat. If you do not accept, if you want I..."

[PRENSA LIBRE] Why didn't you stage a coup against Serrano?

[Enriquez] Well, if we had staged a coup d'etat from the military standpoint, the Army's position would not be as advantageous as it is today; it would have been terrible for the armed institution.

[PRENSA LIBRE] Will the Armed Forces accept homosexuals in their ranks?

[Enriquez] The truth is that if in the United States, where the cultural level is higher and homosexuals have a lot of clout, some opposed this—even President Clinton's initiative was overridden, an initiative that I respect—it would be very unusual for it to happen here.

[PRENSA LIBRE] Why didn't the Army take into custody Belizean soldiers who were caught in Peten Department?

[Enriquez] Regarding this issue, Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo asked me that on 2 August and I had reliable information. I received a call from the commander of Military Zone No. 23 and he told me that there was no such invasion. He told me that two Belizean soldiers got lost on the border near Peten. Belizean authorities asked the "La Polvora" Military Detachment to look for and assist the soldiers. They were later returned to their country.

[PRENSA LIBRE] Do you think that the peace agreement could be signed shortly?

[Enriquez] What I have said, even to the Guatemalan Army, is that we must contribute to open the door to peace in the country so the Guatemalan people can breathe a sigh of relief. I have always been optimistic and I wish the peace agreement had been signed; I do not like to see more dead, wounded, crippled. There has been enough blood, suffering; it is necessary for the guerrillas to end the armed confrontation.

[PRENSA LIBRE] What is the reason behind the military leadership changes?

[Enriquez] Only four changes have been made. These are normal, routine changes. General Francisco Ortega Menaldo has known for a long time that he would be appointed to the Inter-American Defense Board. It has been said that the Army is taking a hard line and I now understand why. I understand they call hard-liners those who favor a military solution to the conflict and disagree with the peace negotiations.

I think that in the Army there is neither a hard line nor a soft line. I think that the counterinsurgent strategic objective is to attain peace and Gen. Ortega Menaldo is not ignoring this.

Cooperation Agreements Signed With Japan

PA0508173393 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2138 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 3 Aug (ACAN-EFE)—Diplomatic sources announced on 3 August that the Japanese Government will donate almost $9 million to Guatemala for housing and irrigation projects and to promote music in this Central American country.

Three cooperation agreements were signed on 3 August by Japanese Ambassador Hirosuke Oshima and Guatemalan Foreign Minister Arturo Fajardo.

In the first agreement Japan donates 49 million yen (over $468,000) to the National Conservatory of Music for the acquisition of musical instruments.

It also donates 200 million yen ($1.9 million) for low-income housing improvements and 695 million yen ($6.6 million) for an irrigation program in eastern Guatemala and the digging of wells for agricultural development.

Honduras

Congressman Rejects U.S. 'Blackmail' on Property Rights Law

PA0508221693 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 5 Aug 93 p 6

[Text] Sources at the National Congress have disclosed that the U.S. Government has set 30 August as the deadline for Honduras to approve the intellectual property rights law or face the loss of its Caribbean Basin benefits.

Congress Vice President Carlos Kattan described the U.S. Government threat as blackmail, saying that the law should be discussed by Congress but not under pressure.

Kattan said the law was written at the U.S. Embassy and sent to the Executive Branch. It contains a number of mistakes and contradictions that violate the country's interests and sovereignty.

"If the law is passed under pressure," Kattan said, "it will create very serious problems in the business sector, which has not even taken notice of the irregularities and problems it will create."

Kattan said that there is a worrisome lack of seriousness when the U.S. Government can establish deadlines and threaten to restrict Honduras' Caribbean Basin benefits; the same thing happened in El Salvador where quotas were imposed on certain products within a few days of the law's approval.

According to the congressman, the law should be approved as long as it does not affect the country's interests. In its present form, the bill "violates the constitution and goes against the Honduran people."

Nicaragua

Cabinet Discusses U.S. Aid Amendment Behind Closed Doors

PA0608130793 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 5 Aug 93 p 12

[Text] Violeta Chamorro's cabinet ministers held a meeting behind closed doors on 4 August on the fourth floor of the Presidency, primarily to discuss the amendment approved by the U.S. Senate last week.

A presidency source on the evening of 4 August informed BARRICADA that such issues as the arsenals, events in Esteli, and the government's relationship with the church were among the central points of a broad agenda that sought to broadly outline the country's current situation.

Despite the absence of President Chamorro, who is on a private visit to the United States, her 14 ministers—the directors of autonomous organizations and other institutions did not attend—formed several working commissions in which they included the absentees.

How many and which areas of government the working commissions will cover was not reported, although the source confirmed that one commission will be in charge of stepping up farm loans.

Also on the ministers' agenda was the invitation the government has extended to local economists to "pause for a moment" and contribute to the economic plan.

Sandinist Statement on National Crisis

PA0508151393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 14

[Text] More than 70 Sandinists, including the 29 members who demanded a few weeks ago that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] distance itself from the government, issued a statement on the national crisis on 3 August. The following is the complete text of the document:

Statement

Confronted with the Esteli events and the worsening national crisis, the undersigned FSLN members hereby make our position public.

1. The Sandinists favor total eradication of the war.

The Esteli events cannot and should not be repeated. Political or institutional reasons do not justify an armed confrontation among Nicaraguans, particularly among Sandinists. We deeply regret the deaths and injuries among our comrades. We call upon the political structures and all their members to use their energy, as well as their family and amicable relations with members of the irregular forces—recompas and recontras—to avoid further armed confrontations that will only lead us to further chaos and anarchy in the country. Compliance with the agreements and unconditional amnesty will best contribute to the disarmament of all irregular forces.

2. The government is the main culprit in the situation. It cannot continue to disregard the people's demands and to use force as a means of resolving differences prompted by hunger, unemployment, and social injustice and exacerbated by its neoliberal policies.

The government must keep all its commitments. The insecurity surrounding property issues must be resolved immediately. The credit policy cannot continue to exclude small and medium producers, cooperatives, and workers. Thus far the policy has favored only a minority; that is, large speculators and bankers. The discrimination against union members and people who retired from the Army, Government Ministry, and Nicaraguan Resistance cannot continue.

The government must start doing something about our defenseless children and discouraged youth, unemployment, the poverty of most of the population, rape and ill treatment of women and children, and the dismantlement and abandonment of health and education programs.

We Reject the Economic Policies

We reiterate our position: The FSLN must clearly distance itself from the government and continue to reject its economic policies. We demand that the government, faced with difficulties in getting international aid, take emergency measures and use our own resources to confront the desperate situation of unemployment and hunger suffered by most Nicaraguans.

3. Since the FSLN was founded, it has never used or promoted terrorist methods to reach its objectives. We therefore categorically condemn all terrorist acts that damage and endanger the country's image and security, as well as any form of state terrorism.

We ask the national and international community not to be fooled by those forces that are using any pretext to renew the war and provoke military interventions, something our people have suffered and repudiated so many times.

Do Not Suspend Economic Aid

4. There is no reason for the suspension of international aid to Nicaragua. The U.S. Congress and the international community must be aware that any initiative to suspend economic aid to our country is unfair to the people and constitutes a direct attack on the political stability of the country and the Central American region.

5. All Nicaraguans should know without a doubt that an immediate national understanding is necessary to secure peace and stability in the country. The proposal that Sandinism must be liquidated to solve the country's problems is totally unacceptable. We Sandinists believe that understanding must be based on respect and mutual recognition of our respective forces, the defense of our national sovereignty, the securement of the political and economic spaces won by the grass roots sectors, equal access to the country's resources, and, especially, a commitment to work for the country's economic reactivation, based on our own forces, to help solve problems.

At the Head of the People

6. The FSLN has a clearly defined program that was adopted at the first FSLN congress. The program reads: "The FSLN must place itself at the head of the people in their struggle for their interests, rights, and benefits. The FSLN must also take decided and aggressive action, through mass struggle, to stop all measures against the people and to impede rightists actions.... The FSLN must protect its political independence and keep its rightful role as a revolutionary party in opposition."

We admit that we have not turned those definitions into guidelines for our actions due to weaknesses and deficiencies in our command organizations. That is why we believe it is urgent for all Sandinists, with or without a party identification card, to ready themselves for a debate—without sectarianism or personal disqualifications—on the FSLN program and its organization and to prepare themselves for the special congress that will take place in these new, historic circumstances.

We call on Sandinists to promote the mobilization of all our organized forces in the territory—sectors, municipalities, and departments—so they will keep pressuring the government to comply with its agreements and to promote, together with the people and their organizations, initiatives to solve the population's most urgent problems: unemployment, health, education, survival, crime, and so forth.

No to Intervention

We caution the most recalcitrant sectors in the country, the government, the United States, and the international community against attempts at military intervention in Nicaragua. We will not accept any form of aggression against our sovereignty and national independence. We call all patriotic forces to exert their efforts to avoid any kind of intervention against our country.

8. Finally, confronted with adversities and dangers of the current situation, it is vitally important that all Sandinists change their priorities. We have to work as a unified force. The FSLN must have cohesion and unity, because those are the only guarantors for our defense and victory.

[Issued] Managua, 3 August 1993

[Signed] Rene Vivas Lugo, Lucio Jimenez, Monica Baltodano, Victor Hugo Tinoco, Gustavo Porras, Isaias Parrales, Fanor Herrera, Lumberto Campbell, Santiago Fajardo, William Schwartz, Alba Palacios, Edgardo Garcia, Juan Jose Ubeda, Orlando Nunez, Nathan Sevilla, Benedicto Meneses, Nelson Artola, Ernesto Ortega, Jose Gonzalez, Jose Omar Moncada, Arnulfo Aguilera, Carlos Fonseca T., Elias Chavez, Modesto Munguia, Mario Quintana, Pedro Windell Matus, Alberto Martinez, Homero Guatemala, Henry Petrie, Luis Guzman Luna, Tatiana Rothschulh, Enrique Picado, Vladimir Soto, Luis Gomez Martinez, Agustin Sequeira, Jacinto Suarez, Bayardo Altamirano, Julio Lopez Campos, Pedro Ortiz, Jose Pasos Marciacq, Gabriel Avelez,

Mayra Pasos, Errol Chong, Margire Gutierrez, Mario Castro Alejandro Gomez D., Leonardo Garcia, Jose Miguel Treminio, Danilo Aguirre, Luis Enrique Figueroa, Elises Gonzalez, Luis Felipe Perez C., Martha Garcia, Jose Eugenio Contreras, Dionisio Marenco, Javier Mendoza, Francisco Rodriguez M., Bayardo Juarez, Lily Soto, David Blanco, Jose Luis Villavicencio, Jaime Zamora, Guillermo Martinez M., Rito Siles, Ricardo Pereira, Jose Adan Rivera, Wilfredo Norori, Harry Chavez C., Mario Quintana, Alberto Vasquez Gomez, Rodolfo Lopez Navarrete.

Army Says 1,182 Rebels Enter Safe Areas, More To Follow

PA0508162893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Major Modesto Rodriguez, member of the Army Special Disarmament Brigade [BED], has confirmed that 1,182 rearmed individuals have so far entered the five security areas created by the Nicaraguan Government for their subsequent demobilization. Maj. Rodriguez added that the areas with the greatest numbers of rearmed individuals are located in El Dorado, 202; El Zingano, 260; and the Jalapa temporary area, where 280 rearmed individuals have gathered.

The BED officer stated that 700 others rearmed individuals belonging to groups of recontras and recompas will enter the security areas in the next few days. Maj. Modesto Rodriguez said that there are between 15 and 20 small groups of rearmed individuals who have not yet been contacted by the BED to achieve their demobilization.

3-80 Northern Front Signs Truce With Disarmament Brigade

PA0608045393 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Aug 93 pp 1, 14

[Report by Elisa Maturana Coronel]

[Text] Caulatu, Quilali—For the first time since taking up arms over a year ago, the rearmed group "3-80 Northern Front" (FN 3-80) formalized its relations with the Special Disarmament Brigade (BED) on 3 August by signing an official document whereby it promises to "maintain contact" and establish a military truce in that area.

"We signed no agreements. At this meeting we initiated relations between the BED and the FN 3-80," said Lieutenant Colonel Ramon Arnesto Soza, commander of the BED, upon ending a meeting that lasted over two hours with the main chiefs of the "FN 3-80," at a small school in this northern town.

The meeting was held in a friendly atmosphere, although moments before the meeting started, some of the rearmed seemed apprehensive due to the presence of a large amount of armed BED troops.

Escorts of both parties guarded the entrance to the meeting place, while peasants from this small town, located over 250 km from Managua, gathered in surrounding areas.

FN 3-80 Commander Jose Angel Talavera, aka El Chacal, said the talks were "positive" and explained that his troops had already unilaterally ceased military operations. "It is just that on 3 August we officially suspend them," he said.

BED Captain Jaime Maltes said, for his part, that they would "immediately" coordinate with the commanders of the 1st and 6th Military Regions for the Army to fulfill the truce.

During the meeting, the rearmed men asked the BED to propose to the government the formation of a "high-level" commission to hold a meeting between 20 and 25 August.

"We believe that only by talking to them (government) will we be able to bring our positions closer and make our differences thinner. The BED is not a decision-making organization. It is just a liaison for us to convey our position to them," said Talavera.

He explained that at that next meeting, they will discuss an old request for the expansion of the El Zungano security area, the possible entry of its forces into it, the inclusion of BED troops in that area—currently controlled by the rearmed men—and the rest of their demands.

"If the government maintains its unyielding position, we will also do the same," he warned.

Trust

Another one of the leaders of the FN 3-80 known as "Piloto," said he trusts that "everything will turn out all right" and left the development and progress of this first contact in the hands of the government, which will have to sent the "high-level" commission.

Piloto and El Chacal said that if the talks progress satisfactorily, their forces—which are dispersed for the time being—would begin regrouping in the security area.

"Although our current means of struggle (weapons) has advanced considerably and we have enough strength to pressure the government, we would rather find a peaceful solution," said "Piloto," who also signed this first commitment.

In that sense, El Chacal said his troops will contact in the next few days the groups headed by Northiel and Charro, which are part of the FN 3-80, but which refuse to establish a dialogue, so that they support this effort.

"We sit here because we want the violence to end, we want no more bloodshed, but, up to now, this is only our first meeting. We are getting to know each other," said Talavera.

*** Godoy's Meeting With 'El Chacal' Criticized**

93CA0159B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
8 Jul 93 p 13

[Editorial: "A Mockery of Pacification"]

[Text] Last Monday's meeting in a district near Quilali between Vice President Godoy, who was accompanied by four UNO [National Opposition Union] deputies, and several military leaders of the Front 3-80, including *El Chacal*, cannot be taken lightly, as if it were just another outburst of the vice president following in the mad steps of Deputy Humberto Castilla.

It is understandable that, as a calculating politician, Godoy would have signed a pact with the Somocist PLN [Nationalist Liberal Party] in Miami a few weeks ago, although it did surprise his own fellow UNO members.

What is impossible to understand as part of the country's democratic normality is that the figure of the vice president, whose antidialogue position is exceedingly well-known, should meet with an armed group that is outside the law, returning as the carrier of a violent message contrary to the democratic order.

If some prominent Sandinist leader should appear tomorrow, meeting with "Pedrito the Honduran" of the *Recompas* or Frank Ibarra of the Punitive Leftist Forces, then come justifying his political slogans, the Catholic Church would be the first to censure an act of politicking which, by giving new wind to the rearmed forces, would be rendering the pacification process even more difficult.

That is precisely what Godoy did with the members of the Front 3-80. The vice president attended the meeting, not as a messenger of peace would have done, demanding that El Chacal lay down his arms and submit to the law and the courts in order to pay for the crimes he has committed. On the contrary, the political result has been a tit-for-tat used to try to legitimize Godoy's own position in UNO and that of the rearmed forces that remain outside the law.

This establishes a serious legal precedent that also fuels declared actions of international terrorism.

Last week, the American State Department issued a terse bulletin warning of the illegal activities which elements connected with the 3-80 group are conducting in that country to collect funds in order to support armed actions against the government of Nicaragua.

In a position that marks a total break with the past, the Clinton Administration has condemned such activities, indicating that they are a violation of his country's laws. "Such activities are particularly repugnant insofar as they could support violence aimed at a friendly government such as that of Nicaragua," the statement declares.

Nevertheless, the American warning stopped short of the facts. Not only are funds being collected in its territory to finance violence, but some 20 Cuban Americans belonging to the terrorist group known as "Commandos L" departed from Miami and are already in our territory providing military training for the Front 3-80, whose leaders are the same "democrats" who met with Godoy.

This was confirmed with a gesture of satisfaction by Deputy Humberto Castilla, promoter of the 3-80 in Miami, going beyond all imaginable limits of legal and political tolerance.

No one in Nicaragua can remain passive in the face of acts of complicity with international terrorism that contradict the supposed democratic ideals that Godoy has discovered in the rearmed forces.

In the meantime, consistent with its statement, the American Government is obliged to take vigorous action to stem all such activities and try the terrorist elements involved in violent actions against our country.

*** Luis Carrion on Need for FSLN Platform**

93CA0159A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
10 Jul 93 p 5

[Interview with FSLN National Directorate member Luis Carrion by Noel Irias; place and date not given—first five paragraphs are BARRICADA introduction]

[Text] Major Luis Carrion, member of the National Directorate of the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], spent a year as a student of international affairs at Harvard University, one of the world's leading institutions.

"Why did Carrion spend that year at Harvard?" some Sandinists ask.

"I think that whether or not one is a Sandinist, a person who wants to move forward has to be open to learn and study until the end of his life. Anyone who ceases to learn dies intellectually and as a factor of change," Carrion maintains.

The Sandinist leader also insists that the FSLN needs a political platform for the future as a requirement enabling his party to play an active role in the country's events.

In an interview with BARRICADA, Carrion answered questions that arose as a result of the news concerning a top FSLN leader studying at one of the "cathedrals" of Western thought.

[Irias] After a year's absence, how do you view the FSLN's situation?

[Carrion] The situation is very fluid and I have no definitive opinions about many things. I am open to hearing as much as I can before forming any firm opinions.

Nevertheless, it seems to me that the FSLN needs a political program looking to the future. Organizational

and other problems will not be resolved if we do not face the future and have our own political agenda.

What is our platform? It is not the same as the one that defeated the dictatorship. That plan was carried out to the extent possible and we cannot be the only ones to defend the achievements of the past decade.

Decisive Role

The situation requires that we play a decisive role and present a political, economic, and social platform for the nation's future.

Without such a platform, I do not see how the FSLN will overcome the organizational problems it is experiencing and regain a position of active leadership of society.

With such a clear political purpose, the FSLN must use the legal, institutional, and mass resources that it can develop in order to carry out that plan, that platform, that national political purpose based on which we could go into the coming elections.

It is important to approach this matter as soon as possible.

[Irias] What does the fact that one of the revolutionary commanders would spend a year behind the ivy-covered walls at Harvard mean or imply?

[Carrion] Harvard is one of the United States'—and world's—leading academic institutions and it gave me an opportunity to come into contact with the people who are formulating the thought dominating the economic world and government policy.

It enabled me to come into contact with other students with political, government, or union responsibilities...in short, with persons from various geographic and political realities who have had to assume leadership facing the same problems that we have. It was an enriching experience.

I went with an open mind to try to refine my experience and thought and then try, upon my return, to make a better contribution to the difficult task of promoting, from the Sandinist framework, ways out of the serious crisis in which Nicaragua finds itself.

Distance

[Irias] Does being at a distance from the daily events of the country change your vision of the country's problems?

[Carrion] Being away is very important for crystallizing the result of a practical experience of many years. The country's very circumstances do not allow us enough time to reflect upon the structural causes and long-term solutions. Distance facilitates that process.

Nicaragua has declined in importance and interest in the international context. The people in the United States, for example, have had no interest since we emerged from the position in which the Reagan-Bush Administrations put us.

The resources from foreign cooperation that Nicaragua has received over the past three years are truly extraordinary, among the highest in the world in per capita terms, and will not continue in the future.

In the final analysis, it is not a political problem, but rather, there is less and less willingness on the part of the wealthy countries to give foreign resources. It is better, in terms of their strategic priorities, to invest in Russia and East Europe.

Nicaragua's future depends on us. There is no miraculous formula for moving from poverty to abundance, not even to a comfortable situation.

Progress depends on our effort, work, and ability to solve in a civilized manner the conflicts we are experiencing in the country. To date, the recourse of force has been the most useful means for solving them.

Reacting Rapidly

From a distance, Nicaragua could be seen moving away from the rest of Latin America from the economic and social standpoint and, along with Haiti, we are in last place. We are the only ones who can resolve this situation. No one will come to save us. We have to decide ourselves what this country will be.

If we do not react rapidly and show that the resources which other countries donate produce results, there will be less incentive in international and government organizations to help us. Time is not on our side.

[Irias] What can we do?

[Carrion] We have to demonstrate that we are capable of building a country in which we understand and resolve problems based on the law and established procedures. We must stabilize the democratic regime by giving a voice and participation in decisionmaking to the different social sectors.

We have to be capable of turning the country's potential wealth into real wealth by work, perseverance, imagination, and honesty. The greatest challenge to us as Nicaraguans we pose ourselves.

We have the natural resources—as long as we do not squander them—but those of us who have to transform that potential into reality are sometimes the problem.

Upon my return, I found a rather pessimistic atmosphere, feelings of despair and frustration, the attitude that we can do nothing. That worried me because a person who loses hope loses the desire to try.

I think there are opportunities and also potential that in these difficult times we have to dig out of the depths of our national soul in order to improve.

* Evangelical Political Power Discussed

* Statistics Reported

93CA0155A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
27 Jun 93 p 11

[Article by Darwin Juarez]

[Text] According to the records of the Council on Political Parties, there are in Nicaragua at the present time 24 legally registered parties. A *sine qua non* requisite for a political group to be registered is the properly documented submi sion of 143 local boards of directors, corresponding to the same number of municipalities.

That is one of the goals that the directors of the PJN [National Justice Party], the first political group created in Nicaragua under the standard of Protestantism, or "the evangelicals," as they are more commonly known, plan to accomplish within the next two months.

The evangelicals now constitute 20 percent of the Nicaraguan population; their growth has taken place primarily among the most disadvantaged sectors of society.

According to data from the book *Protestantism and Elections in Nicaragua* published recently by theologian and sociologist Roberto Zub, in the last election only 28 percent of Managua's evangelicals voted for the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front], compared with the 42.6 percent of the votes they received in Managua. This study also reveals that 56.9 percent of the evangelicals supported "strong change," and that 70 percent had already decided whom to vote for as soon as the presidential candidates were announced.

After three years of the UNO [National Opposition Union] government, the evangelicals have begun to think seriously about forming their own party. According to Zub's study, 70.6 percent of a sample of 248 evangelicals polled responded affirmatively to the question about an evangelical party; and 31.5 percent—a majority in the survey—believe that only an evangelical government can solve Nicaragua's economic problems.

Below, the dean of the Evangelical Faculty of Theology in Managua, Roberto Zub, and Dr. Jorge Dias, the current president of the board of directors of the National Justice Party, discuss the registration of Nicaragua's 25th party—and possible third national political force—its goals, philosophy, potential in Nicaragua, and recent experiences in other countries like Peru and Guatemala.

* PJN Goals

93CA0155B Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
27 Jun 93 p 11

[Interview with PJN President Jorge Diaz by Darwin Juarez; place and date not given]

[Text] [Juarez] What led the Evangelicals to form a party that will involve them in national political life?

[Diaz] This is not a specifically evangelical party. We are purely and simply the National Justice Party. It is true that this party was born among predominantly evangelical leaders and sectors, but it does not represent only evangelical sectors. We have Nazarenes, conservative Baptists, liberal Baptists, people who sympathize with liberation theology, people who are ultraconservatives or fundamentalists.

There are also Catholic sectors: people who were members of the party or supported Sandinism; people who were active in or members of a UNO [National Opposition Party] party and who still support some of UNO's positions, but who feel that no real solution can be found on one side or the other.

In the last election we voted like the great majority of the people: for the war to end.

For Family Planning

[Juarez] What are the objectives of the PJN [National Justice Party] and your principal positions?

[Diaz] We want to help improve Nicaraguan politics and restore its true objectives, not engage in politicking or demagoguery. We want a sound policy, a political science to govern and serve the nation.

We also want to concentrate more on the family. For us neither the individual nor society should be the social focus of the political parties, but it should be the family.

We want human beings to be treated with dignity, we want human rights to be respected. In our statement of principles we also say that the other thing that led us to this is our desire to strengthen the economy; to learn how to create the famous economic takeoff.

We trust God and our grassroots not to be a party that wants only to get elected, and then lets the voters see what we will do.

We want to have birth control in our program. Because of its Christian essence, our party does not agree with the practice of abortion, but we are not in favor of maternal deaths caused by the socioeconomic situation.

We believe it is important to attack population growth in a determined manner through sex education and family planning. If we continue to grow at a rate of 3.5 percent a year, we are never going to grow economically. We have to learn how to increase economic growth rates and decrease the rate of population growth.

[Juarez] What relative weight do you think the PJN has?

[Diaz] At least 80 percent of the evangelical leadership agrees with the formation of this party.

These people are not going to engage in political propagandizing from the pulpits—we have made a commitment not to mix the party with the church, or the state with the church—but we do know their opinion is going to move middle-level leaders and the grass roots of the evangelical sector.

Moreover, we are not working only with this sector. One of the few studies of the UNDP [UN Development Program] says that even though the evangelical church represents only 20 percent of the population, it receives 47 percent of the votes. This means that in addition to evangelicals, there are Catholic sectors who trust the evangelicals.

We are not going to just go on thinking that we will elect as many deputies as we can, but God willing, we may take the executive.

We view the exercise of power through the executive as an exercise in which we are going to serve—let me emphasize this word—as true conciliators and coordinators of the nation's leadership.

A Single Party

[Juarez] Where is the party now in organizational terms?

[Diaz] We have established a presence in over 102 municipalities and we have organized 92 municipal boards. We are starting the final push to finish organizing the 51 remaining municipalities and completing the 143 that are required by law, so that we can present this package to the Council on Political Parties in August, and be granted our legal status as a party before the end of this year.

[Juarez] Might not your move into politics create some erosion in the evangelical sector as such?

[Diaz] No. Some years ago there were what were called the pastors of the evangelical right and the organizations of the evangelical left. But now the National Justice Party is serving the church to reinforce the idea that we need a party to represent and support this sector.

The other movement is called the Popular Evangelical Movement, but that is a political reflection movement; it does not intend to be a political party. Its leader is the Reverend Miguel Angel Casco.

[Juarez] At the time of the election, would you run alone or form an alliance with other parties?

[Diaz] Some analysts say it is dangerous to say either yes or no. But we believe that if the current balance of strength in Nicaragua persists, we will enter the elections alone. If the political panorama changes, I cannot say we would not do that, but the party's desire at this time is to run alone in the 1996 elections.

* Organization's Potential

93CA0155C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Jun 93 p 11

[Interview with Roberto Zub, dean of the Evangelical School of Theology, by Darwin Juarez; place and date not given]

[Text] [Juarez] Apropos the evangelicals' move into politics, what is your view of the phenomena of Serrano in Guatemala and Fujimori in Peru?

[Zub] The phenomenon of the evangelicals is taking new routes, and they are getting involved in the political life of various Latin American nations. In Peru, a broad sector of evangelicals supported Cambio 90 and Fujimori's candidacy. But Fujimori is not an evangelical; he simply used the evangelicals to get elected. Once he had won the presidency, he removed the vice president, who was a Baptist and the pastor of a church in Lima, turned his back on the evangelical sector, and allied himself with the Catholic Church.

Guatemala is a somewhat different case because President Serrano Elias is an evangelical. He belongs to a very fundamentalist congregation, which is the norm in Guatemala. He was indeed supported by Guatemala's evangelicals, and that brought him to the presidency two years ago. There are organized evangelical parties in other countries: Bolivia, Panama, and El Salvador.

[Juarez] Could that happen in Nicaragua? Could the evangelicals come to have a decisive impact on our national political life?

[Zub] I think they could have a great impact, whether decisive or not. That will be determined by the situation at the time of the elections. Around 20 percent of the population here is evangelical. This means that its pool of votes is about 800,000; but we are conservative in our estimates and we assume that we may get half of those votes, 400,000 or even less. This would make the evangelicals at least the number three political force in this country.

A Party of the Poor

[Juarez] What is the real weight of the evangelicals in comparison with the Catholics?

[Zub] People say about 20 percent, and it is probable that in Managua the percentage of evangelicals may not exceed 15 percent of the population. I think that in Managua the evangelical population is the smallest, percentagewise, but if we move out toward Regions V and VI, in part of Region V over half the people are evangelicals. The same is true in northern Nicaragua. So about 20 percent on a national level.

[Juarez] What sort of relations are there between different groups of evangelicals and their political leaders?

[Zub] In Nicaragua the church that has exercised the greatest social and political-religious leadership is the Baptist Church. This is because it has a large number of professionals, it attracts a middle-class population, it has a university, and also for historic reasons. It is an old church in this country. It has been here for over 75 years, and ever since it was founded in the major cities, it has addressed its message to the liberal middle class of that time.

However, in the last decade the major growth in Protestantism has not been in older churches, but in Pentecostal churches. Pentecostalism represents 80 percent of that 20 percent of Protestants we are talking about. Their political leadership has obviously been extremely weak. This sector has historically rejected political participation. It is a very new phenomenon for them to be behind the formation of an evangelical political party, and they have not been politically active historically.

Leading Their Own Party

[Juarez] What forms an evangelical party?

[Zub] The lack of political—and fundamentally economic—success in recent years means that any organization that feels itself numerically representative—which is true of the evangelicals—may think it at least has a possibility of winning some seats in the assembly, where they have a chance to have a political impact.

The political behavior of these sectors does not differ much from that of any social movement; I think that has to do with their numerical growth. Now they no longer want to sell their vote; they want to lead their own political force.

[Juarez] What philosophy would an evangelical party have? Would it be a fundamentalist party as in Guatemala?

[Zub] According to the research, those who most strongly advocate forming an evangelical party are the poorest Protestants: the most vulnerable, the unemployed, women, people with the least education and training. In general the Protestant sector is relatively new. We have to realize that because of its method of action and propagation, many people who are evangelicals today were Catholics 10 years ago.

It would be hard for them to be fundamentalists. They will be conservatives in a religious sense, but might be liberal politically.

Alone in the Elections

[Zub] But in general the Pentecostal leadership is fundamentalist; they have no political experience or tradition and no political culture. Many of them assume that working in politics is like running a small congregation. So their leaders tend to make some mistakes.

[Juarez] At the time of the elections, will the evangelicals' party probably run alone or form an alliance?

[Zub] I think they will probably run alone. Right now, when they are just organizing the party, it is hard to assume that they would seek an alliance. It also seems to me that their grass roots tend to favor a somewhat exclusive party, even though the profile they are taking is not an excluding sort of profile. In the present board—speaking about the National Justice Party—there are two Catholics and five evangelicals, and they are not trying to be a party representing a particular region or sect. I do not see that as a problem.

Let us assume that large sectors of this population are not Sandinists, and they voted predominantly for UNO in the last elections. If the party's leadership established an alliance with the Sandinist Front, their grass roots would obviously leave. An alliance cannot be formed in that direction. Nor can they form an alliance with any group on the right, as those groups are going to try to have a sufficiently large representation in the assembly on their own.

[Juarez] Do you think the PJN will be able to take part in the next elections?

[Zub] Not much organizational, political, and managerial capacity can be seen in the party now. That does not mean they will not work through this phase. I think they are going to operate differently from other parties.

Still, the surprise may come after the votes are counted. I think it will be a poor party with little publicity and with low social visibility. I think they are going to hold very few campaign rallies. But they might conduct their campaign directly in the churches, and that is very easy to do. It is not going to be visible in public life, but it will simply be something that might happen in thousands of churches where services are held. They will run their campaigns differently.

Opinion of Poll Respondents, by Denomination, on Whether an Evangelical May Be Affiliated With a Political Party (%)

Opinion	ID	AD	IB	MC	IC	IQ	Total
Yes	43.6	35.7	63.3	51.2	74.2	43.8	50.8
No	56.4	64.3	34.7	43.9	25.8	56.3	48.0
Do not know	0.0	0.0	2.0	4.9	0.0	0.0	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Abbreviations used: ID = Church of God; AD = Assembly of God; IB = Baptist Church; MC = Christian Mission; IC = Church of Christ; IQ = "Quadrangular" Church.

Source: "Protestantism and Elections in Nicaragua" by Roberto Zub.

Opinion, by Denomination, on Whether an Evangelical Party Can be Organized in Nicaragua

Agree	ID	AD	IB	MC	IC	IQ	Total
Yes	66.7	85.7	44.9	78.0	77.4	71.9	70.6
No	30.8	12.5	53.1	17.1	22.6	25.0	27.0
Do not know	2.6	1.8	2.0	4.9	0.0	3.1	2.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Abbreviations used: ID = Church of God; AD = Assembly of God; IB = Baptist Church; MC = Christian Mission; IC = Church of Christ; IQ = "Quadrangular" Church.

Source: "Protestantism and Elections in Nicaragua" by Roberto Zub.

* PLI, Miami Alliance Endorse Somozism

93CA0156D Managua BARRICADA in Spanish
23 Jun 93 p 11

[Onofre Guevara L. Commentary: "Liberalism or Somozism?"]

[Text] Claiming to represent independent liberalism, Virgilio Godoy has forged an alliance in Miami with the liberals who are most deeply implicated in the crimes and abuses of the Somoza regime; he has the firm support of the vestiges of the so-called "national guard."

This ought to shake the conscience of those pursuing their political activities under the liberal philosophy, who at least embrace a doctrine that can be identified in history, specifically the doctrine that Zelaya put forth in 1893. In opposition to the conservatives and their retrograde classism, the liberals represented the democratic principles of classical liberalism, with which a segment of the people identified, until the rise of the Somoza faction.

Though with very little, almost nothing, or perhaps truly nothing of the social and patriotic substance that Sandino embodied as a liberal in the wake of the Moncada betrayal, the Independent Liberal Party (PLI) at least had the virtue of having emerged after the break with Somoza in April 1944 when he sought reelection again. Many former ministers under Somoza joined this new movement, which purported to salvage the principles of liberalism.

Having overcome the vices and vacillations of the old liberal political hacks, the PLI brought in new blood and adopted the new political and ideological approaches of Rigoberto Lopez Perez, Edwin Castro Rodriguez, and its first martyr, Uriel Sotomayor Ramirez, whom Somoza Garcia assassinated. The heirs of this movement strengthened it later on by establishing ties with organized labor, and in spite of the ambivalence characteristic of the middle class that always constituted it, the PLI preserved its brave, combative tradition vis-a-vis Somozism.

The PLI played an active role in the struggle against Somoza, which culminated with the overthrow of the dictatorship, and none of its members back then ever thought of entering into an alliance with Somoza's Nationalist Liberal Party.

It was under Virgilio Godoy that the PLI began turning to the right in the mid-1980's, and its current ties to right-wing extremist sectors, which in turn have links to the hard-core U.S. right, caused it to lose its original traits as a rallying point for this country's upstanding liberals.

Now, the corruption of liberalism under the initials of the PLI is absolute. The Miami alliance confirmed as much, and now nothing distinguishes it from the Somozist liberalism of Arnoldo Aleman, with whom it is competing for the same constituency, Somozism.

The opportunistic Godoy went so far as to bring the PLI from head to toe into the Somozist camp, just so that he could fulfill his personal ambitions. What happened in Miami would seem to be the R.I.P. of the PLI as a representative of democratic liberalism.

But what will the liberals in the PLI and other parties that claim to uphold and embrace philosophical liberalism say? Will they allow a proven opportunist (Godoy has provided a great deal of proof) to leave them without a banner that is free of Somozism, at the hands of which many PLI members were jailed, exiled and murdered?

The letter from the leaders of the Nationalist Liberal Party supporting Virgilio Godoy is an overt expression of Somozist backing for the brand-new vice president without portfolio who aspires to govern this country, this time with the help of the Somozist guard. There can no longer be any doubt about it; not even Godoy is interested in raising such doubt.

For all of these reasons, we should expect the democratic and revolutionary sectors of the National Assembly to react to this assault on the current Political Constitution, Article 5 of which specifically outlaws "those who seek a return to the past or who advocate establishing a similar system."

Which is the same as saying...Somozism, this time sponsored by the alliance that has emerged to the sound of the heel-clicking military boots of Somoza's former thugs.

* Government Ignores Country's 'Anguish'

93CA0156C Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 26 Jun 93 p 11

[Bayardo Arce Castano Commentary: "The Country of Anguish"]

[Text] The Chamorro Government has definitely changed Nicaragua. The country is now the site of anguish clubs, which are proliferating in every segment of society.

People are getting together to complain that water rates are increasing, that they cannot afford them, and that their service will soon be cut off.

Households, as well as small and large producers and businessmen, wince when they get their energy bills, remarking that they have quintupled, that they cannot afford them, and noting the threat that service will be suspended.

Merchants, industrialists, and almost all businessmen spend their boards of directors meetings, trade union gatherings, and social get-togethers worrying about the advance payment of taxes, the underlying opposition to lowering them, the private-eye operations to nab them in the act, and the threat of bankruptcy posed by the fines that have been announced.

Workers can only exchange gloomy looks when they hear rumors of personnel cuts, running into each other outside the Government Palace as they brave the elements to demand the preservation of jobs that they will no longer hold.

Farmers no longer talk about "moons" or "rainy seasons" but instead about the lack of credit and nostalgia for what they used to produce and could produce if the government really supported an economic recovery.

The beneficiaries of Laws 85, 86, and 88 turn their meetings into angry exchanges over insolvencies and about "emergency plans" for when the eviction notice arrives.

Union and political leaders cannot remove from their agendas an inventory of the accords and promises that the government has failed to fulfill, adding that they are as yet unable to come up with a method of loosening up the situation.

In light of this "change" every gathering of more than two people today begins, continues, and ends with anguished words about the country's paralysis, unemployment, the high cost of living, the illiquidity of the economy, the failure of production to recover, crime, unsafe streets, social decay, and the deafness and blindness of the authorities to the nation's collapse, for which they prescribe only fines, business closures, utility cutoffs, or budget cuts.

What is the explanation for these unique anguish clubs? Where is the magic of "change"?

The answer is that all of us Nicaraguans want stability and national progress...all of us except the government's strategists, it seems.

This is why the methods of struggle of certain unions and certain mayors, not to mention the armed uprisings of the "recontras" and "recompas," have been controversial, if not condemned.

But in their isolation the authorities have not gotten the message. Their club is the only one into which anguish has not penetrated. As far as their strategists are concerned, everything is doing fine: the economic plan is a success; there is no corruption; their secretly signed international accords and commitments are "the best"; the epidemics do not exist, and "we have never been better."

They are almost anguished to hear it said that all sectors "do not understand them," criticize them, point fingers at them, and are asking them now not only to change policy but also to resign or move the elections up.

But the government's anguish is not that severe yet. In the final accounting, feeling that they are infallible, they are convinced that "there is ingratitude in the world," and as long as there is no social explosion, they find consolation in the popular saying that "caresses are of no use with an ingrate."

Panama

Foreign Minister on Developments in Barcelona Arms Case

PA0508162593 Panama City Telemetro Television Network in Spanish 1730 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Report by Mirna Ortega]

[Text] Foreign Minister Julio Linares has described Deputy Consul Uribe's attitude during his appearance before the Foreign Relations Commission as unforgivable and negligent. Linares said he knew about the situation since March when President Guillermo Endara told him about it. At that time, however, President Endara warned him not to get involved.

[Begin Linares recording] The Foreign Ministry's sole duty is to determine if there is any responsibility due to negligence, guilt, or another cause from the administrative viewpoint. I want to make it very clear that there may be a case when a Foreign Ministry official is innocent of a crime even though he or she acted negligently while in office. [end recording]

Linares said he was the first to be surprised because the mentioned Foreign Ministry official has been in the diplomatic service for over 24 years. Linares also said that thus far he has not been able to get a specific explanation about why the documents were approved.

[Begin Linares recording] Nobody can deny that we have a serious problem on our hands. Panama's prestige, not the government's prestige, is at stake. According to international law, the Republic of Panama is legally involved. [end recording]

Linares presented a letter sent by the deputy consul's lawyer and sister, Mireya Uribe, wherein she requested an investigation into the unconventional conduct of Consul Eliecer Elisha and various business activities by the law firm Endara, Solis, Delgado and Guevara.

Former Military Officers Ready To Reorganize National Guard

PA0508180993 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 3 Aug 93 p 15B

[Article by Edelmiro Franco: "Torrijist Military Officers Ready To Reorganize the National Guard"]

[Text] [Former] Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Arosemena King has said that he and other Torrijist military officers are ready to reorganize the National Guard under a new administration to guarantee the country's defense and sovereignty and to protect the Panama Canal.

Arosemena King spoke on behalf of military officers and comrades-in-arms of the late Major General Omar Torrijos Herrera.

Approximately 100 military officers gathered in a political-cultural ceremony marking the 12th anniversary of Torrijos Herrera's death, which occurred on 31 July 1981 in a mysterious air accident in the country's central mountain range.

This ceremony was also attended by high-ranking members of the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), former diplomats, and relatives of Gen. Torrijos and soldiers fallen during the U.S. occupation [ocupacion] of December 1989.

The 1989 U.S. invasion dismantled the Panama Defense Forces (FDP), which during the Torrijos regime was called the National Guard, as established in Article 305 of the existing Constitution.

The Panamanian military officers, under the coordination of Lieutenant Colonels Arosemena King and Daniel Delgado, are trying to rescue the concept of a National Guard from the Torrijist perspective.

"We are concerned by the current inability to fulfill, as every other independent nation, our responsibilities pertaining to the national defense, public security, protection, and defense of the Panama Canal," Arosemena King explained.

This reorganization, he explained, entails adapting the military forces to the country's new political realities as a nonbelligerent institution that respects the sovereign will of the people.

"It will be above every political, ideological, religious, or social position consideration. This sense of being nonpolitical must be viewed from two perspectives: The military must not intervene in politics or political power nor must politicians seek support from the military to gain political power," Arosemena King commented.

He stressed that the United States must understand that the protection and defense of the Panama Canal will be guaranteed in the measure that Panamanians internally resolve the problems of protection and defense of the waterway.

The military officers admitted that they are facing a challenge because it is a matter of finding "past the mistakes and accomplishments that they made and putting them in the present perspective, the perspective of the new order, the ideology resulting from our current reality."

"We will assume our responsibility by recognizing our mistakes, as we were part of the process of change, unlike others, who today pretend to forget the past and pose as judges of the past. Those persons are committing a crime against history," the spokesman for Torrijist military officers noted.

Arosemena King concluded his speech by saying that the three generations that followed Torrijos "are alive in body and soul," adding that the 1989 invasion dispersed the military forces "after losing one battle."

"We have not lost the war that you [Torrijos] defined in your strategy. Victory has only been delayed. Again, we pick up the flag and, after kissing it, we will continue to move forward," the military officer stressed in his memorial speech to Torrijos.

This was the first open and mass political ceremony carried out by the military since U.S. troops dismantled the Panamanian Army, which was formed by over 16,000 members.

The ceremony was characterized by belligerent speeches and slogans calling for the departure of occupation troops from the country and the remembrance of different thoughts from Gen. Torrijos, such as: "Proudly Standing, Never on Our Knees."

Suspension From Oil Pact Should Not Affect Supplies

PA0608004093 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 4 Aug 93 p 1a

[Article by Juan Manuel Diaz C.]

[Text] The nation's oil supplies will not be adversely affected by the suspension of Panama from the San Jose

Pact nor will this raise oil prices, Roberto Alfaro, commerce and industries minister, affirmed on 3 August.

Panama was suspended after the corresponding payments for oil supplied by Mexico and Venezuela in the 1980's were not met. Panama has an estimated $189 million debt to these nations.

According to the minister, the measure will not adversely affect the nation since purchases of hydrocarbons have been made on a cash-only basis for the past four years. Purchases are now only made from Venezuela and Ecuador.

The minister felt that the nation's suspension from the San Jose Pact will not increase the prices of petroleum by-products as their costs will continue to be set by fluctuations in the international market.

Alfaro affirmed that a commission that traveled a few months ago to Venezuela and Mexico presented two alternatives for the payment of the unpaid invoices; however, both proposals were rejected.

He added that new alternatives for paying both nations are being studied, although he explained that it has not been determined what exact formula would be used to settle the debts.

According to a report drawn up by the Comptroller General's Office, Panama owes Mexico $120.2 million, while it owes Venezuela $68.9 million.

In September the government decided to deregulate the hydrocarbon market and eliminate price controls on petroleum by-products. In the past few weeks the cost of fuels has decreased two cents.

Argentina

Industry Urges U.S. To 'Promise' to Respect Patents Law

PY0508225293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2028 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Aug (NA)—The Argentine Industrial Center of Pharmaceutical Laboratories (CILFA) today urged U.S. Ambassador James Cheek to "publicly promise" that his country "will accept the type of patents law Argentine legislators may deem appropriate, no matter what interests it may affect."

CILFA Executive Director Pablo Challu said this request "means that the ambassador must convince U.S. pharmaceutical laboratories not to demand the implementation of commercial sanctions on Argentina in case the patents law approved by Congress is not exactly what they proposed."

In a new chapter of the polemic unleashed by the medicine patents law, Challu took advantage of the occasion to criticize Ambassador Cheek for his recent statement in which he admitted that the U.S. Government "pays" him "to defend its interests and those of U.S. enterprises."

Challu said: "If lobbying means expressing one's opinion and giving government officials and legislators ideas and arguments it is only legitimate; but this is not the case when one seeks to influence the freedom of thought of those who have to legislate."

The CILFA director added: "Quite the contrary, this attitude tends to bend the will through means of pressure and extortion, an illegal and illegitimate means that deserves to be rejected."

Shortly before assuming his post, Cheek publicly admitted that his "job" is "to lobby" in favor of the interests of U.S. enterprises and admitted that the "priority task" of his administration will be to try to get the Argentine Congress to sanction the pharmaceutical patents law.

The draft bill submitted by the Executive Branch to Congress modifies Law No. 111, issued in 1864 [date as received], which does not include pharmaceutical patents and establishes that the use of medicine formulas will not pay royalties.

In order to justify his stance, Challu stated in a communique: "Let us not repeat what happened in Brazil, which has partially sanctioned a patents law and continues to receive threats from U.S. trade representative Michael Kantor [title and name as received] because the law does not fully satisfy the U.S. pharmaceutical industry's interests."

Cavallo on Ministry's Restructuring, Unemployment

PY0508223593 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 5 Aug 93 p 3

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN)—The May unemployment rate of 9 percent in the Greater Buenos Aires area is probably an all-time record and even Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo admitted yesterday that "there are unemployment problems."

He also said that "there aren't enough vacancies to go round," although he refrained from confirming or denying the preliminary figures published by the Indec [National Institute of Statistics and Census].

Should they be confirmed, unemployment will have reached its highest level since this government took office and the highest level ever since figures are kept. It would be a 2.1-percent increase over May 1992 figures.

At a press conference yesterday, Cavallo also announced that certain areas of his ministry will be restructured and announced that the announcement of farming measures will depend on the new fiscal pact being signed by all the provinces.

Cavallo's restructuring measures means that Economy Vice-Minister Carlos Sanchez and Legal and Technical Secretary Horacio Liendo now have much greater responsibility at the ministry.

The Trade and Industry Secretariat has been split in two, with Carlos Magarinos heading the new Industry Secretariat, the post left vacant by former industry and trade secretary Juan Schiaretti, who has moved on to politics in Cordoba.

The other half of the old secretariat, trade, will be the responsibility of Vice-Minister Carlos Sanchez.

Cavallo pointed out that these changes "will not increase the bureaucratic structure of the ministry" but will only reassign functions.

As to announcements for the farming sector depending on the signing of the fiscal pact, Cavallo used the stamp tax as an example, saying that farm mortgage bonds wouldn't be made available until the provinces agree to "stop charging stamp tax on farming-related transactions." [passage omitted]

Argentine Military Observers Approved for Haiti, Cyprus

PY0508221793 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Official sources confirmed that the Argentine Government has decided to send military observers to Haiti, within the framework of a UN peace mission. During a long meeting, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Defense Minister Oscar Camilion agreed to send

troops to Haiti, and they have set up the Argentine military mission that will be stationed in Cyprus under UN supervision.

According to the same sources, the decision to send military observers to Haiti is based on the Argentine Government's unbreakable will to participate in the reconstruction of this country considering the outstanding role played by Dante Caputo as UN mediator.

Defense Minister Camilion spoke to Radio Nacional about the repeated participation of Argentine troops in UN peace forces:

[Begin recording] The problem is that we are in great demand. Argentine troops are really requested abroad. They are asked to be relocated to more compromising positions, that is, in places that demand a greater professional effort, like in Yugoslavia, or in other new places. The Argentine peace forces are very successful. They behave very well, not only professionally but from the human point of view. They integrate easily in other countries, which is something that probably depends on the Argentine way of life because, although we may have many defects, one thing we have is that we integrate people into one society, ours is a melting pot [two preceding words in English], and this possibly facilitates our relations with other peoples. Our troops have a very important advantage that will surprise you—I know this because I headed a peace force, and I know just how useful this is. One of the advantages our men have is that they do not get drunk. Against the tradition of all soldiers, our soldiers do not get drunk. This helps a lot in avoiding incidents among the forces during the weekends. [end recording]

Bolivia

Castro Receives 'Warm, Spontaneous Welcome' in La Paz

PY0508165993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1542 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] La Paz, 5 Aug (EFE)—Cuba's President Fidel Castro received a warm, spontaneous welcome from the Bolivian people in La Paz today.

Hundreds of workers, peasants, bystanders, and schoolchildren took to the streets to greet "Commander Fidel" waving Cuban and Bolivian flags while other groups waited at the airport, despite strict security measures imposed by the Bolivian police, making their presence felt by shouting "Fidel, Fidel."

The warm reception by the Bolivian people contrasted with scowls from more than one member of the U.S. delegation and the uneasiness of some military and anti-Castroist political groups that cannot comprehend Castro's presence at a democratic festivity.

One worker waiting for Castro in downtown La Paz said he wanted to tell "Commander Fidel that Cuba was not alone."

Other citizens waiting in the path of the official caravan told local radio stations that they wanted to express their solidarity with the Cuban people who are resisting, "with courage, the blockade imposed by the gendarme of the United States."

Oruro and Cochabamba University leaders independently delivered invitations to the Cuban Embassy, asking President Castro to visit their cities.

Paz Zamora's government will decorate Castro with the "Condor de Los Andes" medal in reciprocity for the "Jose Marti" medal granted to the Bolivian president, despite protests by some "hawk" groups that harshly condemn Castro.

Addresses Crowd From Hotel Window

PY0508192193 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived here this morning. His plane landed at El Alto International Airport [in La Paz] amid strict security measures. The Cuban head of state was accompanied by his entourage. He was received by the Bolivian foreign minister and other Foreign Ministry protocol personnel. Fidel Castro is currently receiving military honors and is getting ready for a news conference. Here is a report by Katia Rodriguez.

[Begin recording] [Rodriguez] Commander Fidel Castro arrived at El Alto Airport at 1000 [1400 GMT] this morning. He was accompanied by six government officials and a dozen journalists. He was received by Foreign Minister Roberto Pena, Oscar Eid, and legislators from the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement], ASD [Democratic Socialism Alternative], and the United Left.

After the protocol honors, Fidel briefly greeted the Bolivian people through P.A.T. [Associated Journalists Television] microphones.

[Castro] My very fraternal greetings to the entire Bolivian people. I want to say that this is a great honor for me to be here. [end recording]

In El Alto, city workers and members of the regional workers federation were also expecting Fidel. [shouting, cheering is heard in the background]

Fidel Castro then went to the Plaza Hotel in La Paz where he is staying. The crowd acclaimed him for over an hour. [shouting, cheering]

Commander Castro came to the window at the insistence of the people.

[Begin recording] [Crowd chanting] Let him speak, let him speak.

[Castro] I was told that there was not much oxygen here in La Paz. But this is the place with the most oxygen... [crowd cheers]. I think you have excellent hearing because I can hear you very well despite the fact that we are not using electronic equipment.

[Unidentified female voice] You have a marvelous voice. [Crowd shouts, cheers]

[Castro] This is the greatest honor I have received in my entire life. [end recording]

Because Fidel will not have to undergo an antidoping test and he is not playing the world soccer qualifying games [referring to recent case of Brazilian soccer player who drank coca tea and tested positive] he did not drink one, but two cups of coca tea. [crowd cheers, chanting indistinct slogans]

[Begin Castro recording] [Words indistinct] having had the extraordinary privilege of seeing you, listening to you, and knowing that from so far away you send our people a message of solidarity, saying Cuba is not alone. [cheers, shouting] [end recording]

Finally, Commander Castro wanted to take home a souvenir of the crowd that received him so warmly in La Paz. [Crowd shouts Fidel, Fidel while Castro takes pictures of the crowd].

Crowd Hails Castro, Chants Anti-U.S. Slogans

PY0508222093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1934 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Report by Alejandro Varela]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 5 Aug (EFE)—Cuban President Fidel Castro's arrival in Bolivia today in La Paz prompted a multitudinous demonstration against the United States and in support of Cuba that even frightened Castro.

Castro, from the window of his hotel in downtown La Paz, told the crowd of Bolivians—most of them youths chanting "Cuba yes, Yankees no," among other similar slogans—"do not say certain things because I have come here as a guest."

After arriving at La Paz's international airport, Castro received a warm welcome from thousands of Bolivians carrying Cuban flags who followed him to the hotel where he is staying.

Once at the hotel, Castro was forced to come to the window of his room on the hotel's first floor, where he remained for half an hour, obviously moved by the thousands of youths who cheered him and disrupted the downtown area.

"This is the greatest honor I have ever received," said Castro in his first visit to Bolivia, where his revolution comrade "Che" Guevara was captured and killed in September 1967.

Bolivian Foreign Ministry sources told EFE the Cuban president was somewhat affected by La Paz's altitude, which is more than 4,000 meters above sea level.

However, Castro had the strength to slap his chest with his hand while, without a microphone, he asserted at the top of his voice that "Cuba is not alone," in the midst of the applause of thousands of Bolivians who thus confirmed what he was saying. [passage omitted]

Castro commented: "I was told that La Paz was a very cold city, but I have never seen a warmer place in the world."

While Castro excused himself because "my voice is faltering," the crowd chanted: "Fidel, who is Fidel, that imperialism cannot cope with him." [passage omitted]

Fidel Castro is scheduled to meet in La Paz with outgoing President Jaime Paz Zamora and incoming President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada and with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

Former President Banzer Criticizes Castro's Visit

PY0608011093 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2208 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Excerpts] La Paz, 5 Aug (EFE)—General Hugo Banzer Suarez, former presidential candidate, today accused Fidel Castro of death and dissension among Bolivians in the past, and said he did not "justify the Cuban president's visit" to Bolivia.

Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived today in La Paz to participate in the presidential inauguration together with three other Latin American chiefs of state and high-ranking personalities from European, American, and Asian countries.

Banzer, who was the chief of the now-defunct government coalition that supported Jaime Paz Zamora's government, stressed: "Mr. Castro has never helped Bolivians achieve their national objectives or their return to the sea."

In contrast to the warm welcome hundreds of Bolivians gave Castro on his arrival this morning in La Paz, Banzer said: "Conversely, he sent people from his country to divide Bolivians and cause their deaths."

Openly contradicting Banzer, outgoing Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora said that the Bolivian people "thank Cuba" for its cooperation in health and sports training programs, "and for the constant support that Fidel has given our maritime cause."

"I thank Fidel for accepting the invitation I extended to him asking him to come to the presidential inaugural celebration," Paz Zamora reiterated.

Banzer's harsh criticism is related to the guerrillas organized in 1967 by Argentine-Cuban Dr. Ernesto Che Guevara with the support of the Cuban Government.

During the recent general elections, Banzer was the presidential candidate of the Patriotic Accord, a government coalition that included the Nationalist Democratic Action and Jaime Paz Zamora's Revolutionary Movement of the Left.

The former candidate, who headed a de facto regime for seven years in the 1970's, supported the position of the U.S. Embassy, which termed Fidel Castro's visit to the country "incongruent." [passage omitted]

But the Bolivians who gathered in front of the hotel where Castro is staying shouted "Fidel, brother, you are already a Bolivian" until they ran out of breath, and they waved flags and pamphlets with the words "Cuba is not alone."

Castro Speaks After Meeting Bolivian President

PY0608001993 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Greetings from Cuban President Fidel Castro after meeting with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora in Government House in La Paz—live; first few words unmonitorable due to microphone problems]

[Text] [Castro] [words indistinct] to greet you, to tell you that I feel very well [words indistinct] that I am quite honored for the invitation I received. And I am very flattered [words indistinct]. I have been many places but I will keep the memories of today's visit all my life. I have not met such warm people, such kind and educated people, very many times as the ones I met today, the people I met today. And I say this with the most sincere and profound emotion. As you can see this is a short speech despite the fact that I am known for making long speeches.

We are now going to greet the people for a few minutes, then we will go up in the elevator, then go down again, and then run back here to comply with the program. You can understand that I am sure.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Castro] If you ask one question, there will be 500 more.

[Paz Zamora] Excuse us.

[Castro] I will have to meet with all of you for sure, otherwise I would be a very rude guest. But above all, I would like to meet with the Bolivian people, without discriminating against anyone, of course.

[Paz Zamora] Excuse me a minute. The truth is that we are short of time. We have guests from the foreign delegations arriving at 2000. I believe President Castro can meet with the national media in a calmer situation for a fruitful dialogue. But this is not the appropriate time because we would have to do it in a hurry and Castro wants to talk with the media in a calm environment.

[Castro] Of course. We can have some pictures taken. We can stand here.

Castro Decoration Said Cancelled Over Military Displeasure

PA0608021293 Paris AFP in Spanish 0119 GMT 6 Aug 93

[Text] La Paz, 5 Aug (AFP)—Cuban President Fidel Castro "stole the spotlight" during the first day of his visit to Bolivia in the framework of the presidential inauguration to take place in this country but at the end, and contrary to officially announced plans, he was not decorated by his Bolivian counterpart, Jaime Paz Zamora.

During the day, thousands of people gathered to cheer the Cuban leader in front of the hotel where he is staying as well as in front of the Government Palace where he went late in the afternoon to meet with Jaime Paz Zamora, the outgoing president.

The meeting lasted approximately 90 minutes.

It had been officially announced that during this meeting the two chiefs of state would mutually decorate each other, with Castro receiving the Condor of the Andes decoration, and Paz Zamora being awarded the Jose Marti Medal, but at the end the decoration ceremony was canceled apparently because of the displeasure that the granting of such a distinction had produced among various sectors, including the military.

The harshest position in this regard was that of former presidential candidate, retired General Hugo Banzer, in whose opinion "there is no sense in granting that decoration" because "Castro not only has not done anything for Bolivia, he sent (Argentine-Cuban guerrilla leader Ernesto) Che Guevara to divide the Bolivian people."

The incident had no repercussions among the people. Approximately 3,000 persons crowded Plaza de Armas for hours enthusiastically applauding Castro on his arrival at and on his departure from the palace.

At the conclusion of his meeting with Paz Zamora, Castro, his voice filled with emotion, said: "I have been in many places, but I will never forget the memories I have of Bolivia and its people. I am saying this sincerely and am truly moved."

Pressed by newsmen who were asking him to grant a news conference, Castro excused himself, saying that he could not do it because of his agenda, but promised that he will meet with the media before his departure on 7 August, "because," he said, "otherwise, I would be exhibiting poor manners."

Minister Says Ilo Project Will Make Chile Offer Sea Outlet

PY0608000993 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] According to government officials, the Ilo port project will make Chile give Bolivia a sea outlet in the future.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] The Bolivian-Peruvian project in Ilo port is one of the most important achievements of the current government, according to Ministry of Exports officials.

[Exports Minister Fernando Campero] All the initiatives taken in the direction of the Ilo project are the most responsible actions taken by our country in more than 100 years, since we were left in a landlocked situation, to give the country a serious additional alternative for reaching the Pacific coast.

[Reporter] The projection of the current government is that based on the economic influence created by this development project as an important transit point, not only of Bolivian cargo, but also of cargo for the Amazon Brazilian region, Ilo port becomes a real possibility for Bolivia to reach the sea.

[Campero] If this project causes some problems, perhaps minor problems, to Chile, that country then would perceive our sea coast problem as its own problem. And I believe that through peaceful means and the natural pressures and trends on the development of its economy, Chile gradually will be more interested in finding a solution to this problem, which I believe is a basic problem for our country.

[Reporter] At any rate, said Minister Campero, the good relations between Bolivia and Peru will not affect future commercial relations with Chile because the contacts are not between states but between businessmen. [end recording]

Brazil

Franco To Start Cabinet Shuffle In Search of Support

PY0608020193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Aug 93 Political Section p 4

[Text] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco has decided to make some changes in the political composition of his cabinet, and for this he will start a cabinet shuffle today, whose scope is still unknown. Celina Vargas do Amaral Peixoto, director general of the Getulio Vargas Foundation in Rio de Janeiro, will be invited to replace Culture Minister Antonio Houaiss. The other changes will be made gradually. What Planalto Palace intends to do is accommodate the political forces involved in the presidential succession in order to give the government tranquility and to enhance its political support.

Finance Minister Henrique Cardoso, who yesterday was the target of a wave of rumors about his exit from the government, will remain in his post. Cardoso will even be involved in the appointment of political leaders and their representatives in the ministries. Regarding the rumors prompted by the cancellation of a meeting, the minister was supposed to have with the president, Planalto spokesman Francisco Baker stated: "The minister enjoys full confidence and is very firm." In Congress, however, even some of Cardoso's partisan colleagues in the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] reacted against the 1994 draft budget. The legislators criticized the projections and did not accept the idea of no investment funds during an electoral year.

As soon as the government starts the cabinet shuffle with Houaiss' replacement, talks to continue the changes will be intensified. A reliable adviser to President Franco who disclosed this information mentioned the name of three ministers who might be replaced: Mines and Energy Minister Paulino Cicero, Social Welfare Minister Jutahy Magalhaes, and Justice Minister Mauricio Correia.

The cabinet shuffle will be carried out in a manner to avoid attacks by possible candidates for the 1994 presidential succession. Ceara Governor Ciro Gomes criticized several possible presidential candidates, accusing them of deliberately making the government's economic plan unfeasible. One of the persons mentioned by Ciro Gomes, former president and Senator Jose Sarney (PMDB-AP) [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Amapa], acted annoyed, calling him a "flatterer and thoughtless."

Possible Involvement of Sarney in Coup Attempt Viewed

PY0508163093 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Aug 93 Section 1 p 5

[Text] Deputy Chico Vigilante (Workers Party-Federal District) will today ask the Chamber of Deputies to summon Army Minister General Zenildo de Lucena to report on an alleged coup attempt currently underway in Brazil. The deputy said: "Either Congress champions the democratic institutions—or it will be trampled."

The proposal was prompted by an interview with Senator Jarbas Passarinho (Progressive Renewal Party-Para State) that was broadcast by TV Nacional of Brasilia on the evening of 1 August. Passarinho said he suspects that Jose Sarney (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Amapa State), a former president and current senator, was invited to participate in a coup d'etat.

Passarinho said he drew these conclusions after talking with Sarney recently. The former president was reportedly invited to resume the presidency of a government that would be installed after the coup.

Passarinho tried to minimize his remarks yesterday evening. He said: "I did not hear the former president

say he had been approached for that purpose." According to Passarinho, Sarney said he did not want to become another Fujimori—referring to Alberto Fujimori, Peru's coupist president.

Passarinho said: "If a former Brazilian president says this, it is because there is a reason—however obscure." During a speech at a plenary session in the Senate on 13 July, Passarinho expressed his concern over some coup "signs."

As the Chamber of Deputies cannot summon a senator, Vigilante wants Sarney to be "invited" to testify to the Chamber of Deputies, which also wants Lucena to testify because he reportedly has some information.

Chile

Foreign Minister, Pinochet Discuss Treaty With Peru

PY0508190093 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Pending issues of the 1929 Border Treaty with Peru have been discussed by Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma and Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet Ugarte.

They met for about 90 minutes during a luncheon at the Foreign Ministry today.

This meeting prompted obvious expectation following the important announcement by the president of the Republic regarding human rights and the legal steps to attain reconciliation in Chile, specifically over the case of arrested missing citizens.

Gen. Pinochet was approached by journalists but he declined to express his opinion. He said:

[Begin recording] [Pinochet] The meeting with the foreign minister was very cordial. We discussed confidential issues.

[Reporter] Border issues?

[Pinochet] No.

[Reporter] General, can you give us your opinion on the president's speech last night?

[Pinochet] No, I do not give my opinion on what the chief of state has said.

[Reporter] But the measures implemented by....

[Pinochet, interrupting] I will not give my opinion because the speech was made by the chief of state. I will not comment further. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Silva Cimma later gave a detailed account of the meeting with Gen. Pinochet. He said that during the past few hours he met with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee that has approved initial agreements with Peru to solve pending aspects of Article No. 5 of the 1929 Treaty under which Chile will grant services to Peru, including the construction of piers and a monument.

As for today's meeting with Pinochet, Silva Cimma said:

[Begin recording] We discussed this subject in a very cordial manner. I was very pleased to find that high-ranking Army authorities fully concur with the way we reached this agreement which interprets the terms of the 1929 Treaty. We also discussed subjects related to the northern region and, specifically, the great interest Gen. Pinochet has always had in Iquique, Arica. He explained his opinion on various issues related to Arica, the free-trade industrial zone that will be established. [end recording]

Silva Cimma said that the agreements reached with Peru faithfully reflect national interests and noted that it is quite likely that when the Peruvian president visits Chile in early September these agreements will be definitely ratified.

Senate Committee Approves Lima Convention With Peru

PY0608010393 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1416 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Santiago, 4 Aug (EFE)—The Chilean Senate Foreign Relations Committee on 3 August unanimously approved a bill ratifying the Lima Convention, which was signed by the governments of Chile and Peru to resolve pending problems resulting from the 1929 Treaty signed between both countries.

Congressional sources said today that the committee also approved an agreement on the free traffic of goods that, like in the convention, was signed in Lima on 11 May of this year.

Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, who attended the meeting in Lima, expressed satisfaction with the swift decision on the initiatives and stressed the importance of a definitive solution to pending problems with Peru resulting from the 1929 Treaty.

The Lima Convention "puts a definitive end to conflicts with Peru regarding the interpretation and application of the treaty's fifth article," Silva Cimma said.

The conflict resulted from an undefined point over which country had sovereignty over the land, dock, customs office, and railroad station that Chile built for use by Peru in the port of Arica.

In the Lima Convention, Peru accepts Chilean sovereignty over these premises while Chile grants Peru the right to use those installations in perpetuity.

The two countries' governments currently are trying to get their respective congresses to ratify the convention as

soon as possible. Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has decided to make an official visit to Chile once the convention is ratified.

This will be the first visit by a Peruvian president to Chile since the Pacific War in 1879, during which Peru and Bolivia faced Chile, which occupied the Peruvian departments of Arica and Tarapaca and the Bolivian region of Antofagasta.

In Peru, some nationalist sectors have presented objections to the Lima Convention, and an arduous debate is anticipated during the ratification process.

Some Peruvian groups have proposed a plebiscite to allow the Peruvian people to give the final word on the future of Peruvian relations with Chile.

In Chile, however, practically no one voiced opposition to the convention, and different political groups have expressed support for swift ratification.

Some analysts have defined the event as one of the Patricio Aylwin government's most important achievements in the foreign relations field.

The Senate plenum will discuss the convention now that the Foreign Relations Committee has ratified it. The document will then go to the Chamber of Deputies.

Colombia

New Ambassador on U.S. Troop Presence, Embargo Against Cuba

PA0508194493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1656 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Santa Fe de Bogota, 5 Aug (EFE)—Gabriel Silva Lujan, Colombia's new ambassador to the United States, said on 5 August that the Colombian Government has not and will never allow U.S. troops in Colombia to fight drug trafficking.

Before leaving for Washington, where he will be on the television program "60 Minutes," the ambassador said he will seek a new relationship with the United States regarding drug trafficking, "but under no circumstances will U.S. troops be allowed to intervene in Colombia."

The diplomat, who will present his credentials to U.S. President Bill Clinton in the coming days, added that Colombia will pressure on the United States to lift the economic blockade against Cuba.

Silva Lujan, 35, announced that he will try to arrange a meeting between Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and U.S. President Bill Clinton before the end of the year.

Gabriel Silva Lujan, a doctor in political science, was Gaviria's international affairs adviser and will replace Jaime Garcia Parra in Washington.

Trujillo, Iliescu Sign Agreement, Official Visit Ends

AU0508203493 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1718 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Bogota ROMPRES, 5/8/1993—The official visit Romania's President Ion Iliescu paid to Colombia at the invitation of the Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo has ended.

The two heads of state signed the agreement of friendship and cooperation between Romania and Colombia, which lays the bases of the future cooperation between the two countries. The foreign ministers, Teodor Melescanu for Romania and Noemi Sanin de Rubio for Colombia signed the agreement abolishing diplomatic and service visas. Also a banking arrangement was signed between the Romanian Bank for Foreign Trade and the People's Bank of Colombia for bank credits.

The Romanian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Federation of Colombian Businessmen concluded and initialed an agreement. The representatives of Romanian companies present in Bogota all along the presidential visit had talks with their Colombian counterparts for the conclusion in future of cooperation agreements.

Emergency Decree Stipulations Outlined

PA0508154093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] What is the underlying meaning of the decree that has sparked so much controversy? The government has made it difficult—if not impossible—for people charged with terrorism and drug trafficking who have not been formally accused and who were about to be released to get out of jail.

According to the government decree issued 3 August, the following requirements must be met for a person to go free:

1. The investigation of their case must have been closed due to lack of evidence or interrupted for a valid cause or the individual must have been absolved.

2. The offender must turn 70 years of age in prison.

3. The offender must have remained in jail without his legal situation being established for a time equal to or longer than the time he would have to serve in prison if he was guilty of the crime with which he has been charged.

The decree is valid for 90 days. After 90 days, the aforementioned points will be void.

The measures are essentially the same as those temporarily implemented a year ago.

The real question is: Why have the Prosecutor General's Office, the government, and the Congress have done nothing in 13 months to reform the penal code to make these measures permanent?

Government Offers New Benefits to Rebels Who Surrender

PA0508231393 Paris AFP in Spanish 2247 GMT 4 Aug 93

[Text] Bogota, 4 Aug (AFP)—Taking advantage of the state of internal disturbance, the government issued on 4 August a series of measures to expedite the reincorporation of guerrillas into civilian life by granting benefits to those who lay down their weapons and cooperate with justice. The measures benefits the perpetrators of acts of rebellion, sedition, attacks, and the like when they cooperate with the judges. The following are among the benefits granted by the decree:

Provisional freedom to be handled and decided in line with the penal processing code.

Suspended sentence, which is to be granted only by taking into consideration the degree of cooperation with justice.

House arrest when the minimum sentence does not exceed eight years in prison.

Exclusion of specific motives that could aggravate the sanction, or admission of specific causes that could lighten the sanction, whenever, the proof on which these causes are based is inconclusive.

Reducing up to two-thirds the sentence, based on the degree of cooperation, a circumstance that the appropriate judicial authority is to assess.

Further lowering of the punishment to study, work, or teach, in this fashion: those under preventive arrest and those serving their sentences will be given credit of one day in jail for every day they work, study, or teach.

The decree, however, stressed previous benefits may not be granted to those accused of kidnapping, other monstrous crimes, or homicides perpetrated out of combat or while the victim was defenseless.

It also stated that said benefits are to be granted based on the extent to which these persons cooperate with justice, specially if their assistance serves to prevent crimes by the guerrillas or mitigate their impact, obtain the disbandment of said groups, and seize goods used to finance, identify, or successfully complete the investigation.

Another factor to be taken into consideration is if weapons, ammunition, explosives, and/or war materiel are surrendered, and the state is planning to provide protection to those who surrender to ensure their right to life and well-being.

If allowed by their legal situation, they may also receive the benefits economic assistance programs adopted by the government to be reincorporated into society or join military forces or state security corps, whenever those entities deem the knowledge and experience of these persons are useful for the development of their functions.

Minister Briefs Governors on State of Nation

PA0608004693 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 30 Jul 93 pp 1a, 9a

[Article by Ernesto Cortes and Jose Guillermo Herrera]

[Excerpts] Rio Negro, Antioquia— The state of internal disturbance that is to be lifted on 7 August was an efficient tool for fighting the principal forms of extreme violence.

Under its umbrella, the Armed Forces' operational capacity was strengthened. During the past eight months 760 members of the guerrilla organizations were killed, while 1,760 were captured.

The success of measures adopted under this regime was hailed by Fabio Villegas, government minister and presidential delegate.

Villegas spoke at the inauguration of the Sixth National Governors Summit being held here.

The minister noted that the concept of security for every Colombian—after administrative decentralization—is the top priority on the national government's agenda.

Villegas did not evaluate the Armed Forces or the security organizations' performance with regard to specific incidents such as the case of Pablo Esocbar, who continues at large. Rather, he focused on their undeniable achievements in the struggle against subversion and narcoterrorism.

Villegas also presented new perspectives for the decentralization process. He highlighted among its scope congressional approval of the law on the transfer of authority and resources.

Villegas explained: "The departments will have increased budgets, representing over 22 percent of nation's regular revenues in 1993 and nearly 25 percent in 1995."

This is the first Governors Summit to be convened by the regional leaders themselves. [passage omitted]

According to Villega's account, in the area of public order, the nation's most important terrorist groups have been disbanded, starting with those who set up car bombs and attack the petroleum infrastructure. [passage omitted]

Villegas recalled other achievements in the struggle against drug trafficking. Evidence of this is the 10,000

raids against members of the Medellin Cartel and the death, surrender, and capture of this organization's most important lieutenants.

Nevertheless, Villegas warned that in order to follow up on the goals achieved through the state of internal disturbance, he hopes that Congress will give top priority to a law on public order to be discussed in the coming weeks.

The minister also referred to the nation's achievements until now in decentralization. [passage omitted]

* Trade Talks With Chile To Continue in August

93P20241A Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 13 Jul 93 p 3B

[Text] The fourth round of free trade negotiations between Chile and Colombia will take place in August, the director for International Economic Relations, Eduardo Moyano, said yesterday.

The official appeared confident that in August both countries would resolve the minor problems raised by negotiations involving the lists of exempted items.

The talks began last September within the framework of the Latin American Integration Association [Aladi] and the last meeting took place in April in Santiago de Chile.

At the meeting, Chilean businessmen from the textile sector presented exemption lists considered too extensive by the Colombian side.

During that meeting Colombian Vice Minister for Foreign Trade Juan Jose Echavarria said that Chile's list of exemptions covered close to 50 percent of the exports from his country and for this reason he proposed a gradual reduction in taxes rather than exemptions.

Moyano said that Chile will present a shorter list which responds to sensitivities in that country's trade with Colombia.

He added that what Chileans have in mind is that they establish the categories contained in agreements signed with Mexico and Venezuela, and that there be three lists with different schedules for reducing taxes, and a list of exemptions.

Moyano emphasized that the negotiations with Colombia have advanced very quickly; there is now a complete agreement about the series of articles within the agreement while the commercial liberalization program is almost ready.

Topics Still Pending

At the April meeting, when the articles were defined, the subjects of automobiles and air transport were left pending.

According to some sources, on the subject of air traffic, Chile favors the highest degree of liberalization possible, while Colombia prefers that a declaration of some kind be made, and that the matter then be discussed directly between the two aeronautical boards.

The Chilean economic officials have reiterated that a free trade agreement with Colombia is especially important for their country since Colombia has a stable economy with relatively low levels of subsidies.

Thus far, the advances have been limited to confirming the partial agreements achieved within the framework of Aladi.

* Social Security System Proposal Discussed

93SM0355A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 16 Jun 93 p 3A

[Text] The social security law was approved in part by the Congress of the Republic after intensive sessions last weekend. This norm establishes new systems for the handling of pensions and basic health care for Colombian workers.

If the Congress definitively approves the reform in the plenary sessions, as of 1 January of next year Colombian workers and businessmen will have to pay 25.5 percent of their wages to guarantee old-age pensions and health benefits.

In addition, a totally new social security system will go into effect. It will emphasize the freedom to choose among various bodies to provide the services.

To establish pension funds, Colombian citizens will be able to choose between a private fund into which they will have to deposit the capital required to make up their old-age pensions, and the Social Security Institute (ISS), which will recognize a contributor's right to his retirement if he has fulfilled the age and payment requirements.

According to the government, this is a revolutionary step in the health sector. Between 1994 and 2001, the system will incorporate 100 percent of the Colombian population, or in other words, about 36 million people.

The government is less optimistic about the change in the pension system, since the present system offers greater benefits in terms of the retirement age and the contribution period. The existing period has been retained in order to avoid a massive transfer to the private funds.

This means that the funds will not have the anticipated impact on the capital market.

Not Law Yet

The social security reform is not yet the law of the Republic, since it has only survived the first round in the seventh Senate and Chamber commissions, and its debate in plenary congressional sessions still lies ahead.

The reform was first submitted to the present legislature during its first session last year, based on an urgent message from the president of the Republic. This enabled the seventh commissions to begin sitting jointly, and gave debate on the proposal priority.

The initial draft submitted by the government sought reform of the national pension plan exclusively, for the purpose of resolving a fiscal crisis and avoiding bankruptcy for the Social Security Institute. There was a serious deficit in the reserves the ISS needed to meet its commitments to pensioners.

The proposal was the object of multiple criticisms, one of them being that it did not call for an integral reform. For this reason, the government decided to incorporate a reform of the health care system.

The Retirement Age

The conditions pertaining to workers who remain participants in the pension fund of the Social Security Institute will not change. In other words, men can retire at the age of 60, and women at 55.

However, if a worker decides to transfer to a private capitalization fund, the age at which he can benefit from retirement will be two years later. Under that system, the retirement ages will be 57 for women and 62 for men.

In addition, the government has reached an agreement with the Congress on an increase in the retirement age of contributors to the ISS beginning in the year 2014. As of then, the two systems will have adjusted the retirement ages by two years. In other words, the age at which they can retire will be higher for those who are not yet 40 years old.

The retirement age is of particular importance within the capitalization system in terms of the right of workers who have not managed to contribute the required minimum wage amount to receive guaranteed minimum pensions. Those in this situation will receive a state subsidy.

The Amounts Contributed

The contributions of the workers and employees will increase by 70 percent, since the increase called for is from the 15 percent paid in at present on wages to 25.5 percent. The increase will mean a substantial augmentation of labor costs for the economy of the country. According to the preliminary calculations of the National Association of Industrialists (ANDI), the contributions for health and pensions would total 1.8 billion pesos today, with the increase, while at the present time the economic cost is 1.06 billion.

The pension contributions will clearly impose a higher cost on the economy, since the change seeks only the resolution of a financial problem and does not ensure increased coverage.

Where the health reform is concerned, on the contrary, the contribution will increase from seven percent of the monthly income of the worker to 13 percent, but the basic health plan will cover the family unit. In this way, coverage by the system will automatically double when the law goes into effect.

Another major advance has to do with the temporary resolution of the crisis the Social Security Institute is experiencing. As a result of the increased contributions, this body will not suffer from financial difficulties for approximately the next 12 years.

The Freedom To Change

Workers will have full freedom, just once, to make the change from one system to the other, if they so desire. This means that if an individual decides to transfer from participation in the Social Security Institute fund to a capitalization fund, he will not subsequently be able to return to the public system.

In order to make the decision as to which system suits him best, a worker will have to evaluate various factors pertaining to his current and future income and the development of the economy in general.

For example, if an employee has an average income and very good expectations that it will increase substantially in the future, he will perhaps be better off with a private fund, because his contribution will increase gradually.

However, each individual will have to make an assumption about the real income the resources saved will earn. There are three basic criteria for effecting this analysis. They are the interest rate savings will earn on the financial market, the economic growth of the country, and the future cost of living.

The Private Funds

The reform of the social security system will allow the establishment of a capitalization system in which the workers involved will be able to place their savings in order to make up their retirement funds.

The funds will require a contribution of 12.5 percent of salary, and they will place these resources on the financial and capital markets in order to accumulate the savings required so that each individual can receive an income at the time of his retirement.

The pension amounts paid out from the capitalization funds will not depend on the retirement age or the period over which the contributions have been paid in. Rather, each pension amount will be determined by the savings capacity of the individual and the interest rate the bodies administering the resources have been able to obtain.

Thus a worker with a high income who can contribute more than the 12.5 percent provided for in the draft law could accumulate his pension within a much shorter time than the normally established period of 20 years.

Any financial body will be able to create a company for the administration of pension funds if it can provide a minimum of 1.5 billion pesos in capital.

Opinions Vary

The private sector in the country is not very optimistic about the success of the private pension system. In the opinion of the National Association of Industrialists, there are negative aspects in the proposed new system, such as the change in the proportion of pension contributions.

That organization also believes that the differences in requirements and benefits between the Social Security Institute and the private funds will discourage the establishment of the funds, since the legislation favors the ISS.

William Fadul Vergara, the president of the Colombian Insurers' Union (FASECOLDA), believes that the funds will not begin to function with the desired effect because of the differences in the two systems.

First of all, he said, the difference between the minimum number of weeks of contributions required to guarantee minimum pensions, which will be 1,000 for the participants in the ISS and 1,250 for those choosing the funds, will ensure that the majority of the workers stay with the institute. The number of participants in the individual capitalization system will be very small, and this will drive up the costs of the funds.

Javier Fernandez Riva, the president of the National Association of Financial Institutions (ANIF), expressed the view that the capitalization system will not grow as is hoped, nor will it have a positive effect on the economy.

Jaime Arias Ramirez, the representative of the Conservative Party in the Chamber, noted that the cost of the pension reform will come to 600 billion pesos in 1994, of which the debt on pensions already contracted for will account for 500 billion, while 100 billion will go to compensate for the contributions of the workers receiving less than a minimum wage.

The M-19 Democratic Alliance, for its part, will appeal a number of the articles approved by the seventh commissions during the plenary sessions of the Senate and Chamber. One of these articles pertains to the increase in contributions.

The Health System

According to Minister of Health Juan Luis Londono, the reform of the health system will give half of the country's population access to a basic plan by the end of next year. This will mean doubling the coverage in the course of one year.

But the future projections are even more optimistic. By 1997, 83 percent of the population will be covered, and by the year 2001, the level of 100 percent will be reached. The proposal calls for a scheme in which the entire population will contribute 13 percent of wages in order to have access to a basic health plan, while individuals with more limited resources will be subsidized.

The collecting bodies will be called Health Promotion Enterprises (EPS) and can be public, private, or mixed in nature. These organizations will contract for services with other enterprises, based on the preference of each affiliate.

This system will allow the workers with higher incomes to join together with those with low wages. In addition, two percent of each contribution will go directly to a solidarity fund to be used to cover the cost of paying for the health care of the poorest citizens.

Development of Health Coverage

Year	Millions of Individuals	% of Total Population
1993	8.3	26
1995	16.5	50
1997	30	83
2001	36	100

Source: Ministry of Health. Graphic: Editorial Design.

* Treasury Inspector's Activities Stir Controversy

93SM0350A Santa Fe de Bogota SEMANA in Spanish 13 Jul 93 pp 22-27

["In Order To See You Better"]

[Text] Until only a few days ago, few Colombians knew who Jorge Garcia Hurtado was. They merely recognized him as the man with the Antioquian accent and aquiline profile who held the post of treasury inspector. Inspector of what? Practically no one knew, for in the tidal wave of new auditing posts with pompous names resulting from the new constitutional order, the Office of Treasury Inspector, like that of people's defender, was considered of lesser importance.

Now, suddenly, the treasury inspector has turned into the symbol of the fight against corruption, all as a result of the ruling by the High Council of the Judiciary that asked the president of the republic for his removal. Nor does public opinion understand precisely what the High Council of the Judiciary is, but the general impression of the entire episode is that an honest man wants to prevent anyone from stealing public funds and that as a result, they are bidding him farewell.

What is the true story behind all this? First of all, that the post of treasury inspector is a circumstantial post created for a single purpose: to see that the resources of the public treasury, or those from abroad, would not be used to influence the outcome of political campaigns. This vigilance was to continue for only three years, the so-called transitional period between the old and new constitutions. Since aid was tolerated as an election tool under the old regime but has now been banned, it was

deemed fitting to create an auditor's post to ensure that the old habits would not continue.

Two of those three years which the post of inspector was to last have already gone by and it would have disappeared in relative obscurity within the year if it had not been for the events of last week.

Recommendation From Alvaro

Given the peremptory period of eight working days which temporary Article 34 of the new constitution gave the president to name the inspector, treating the appointment rather casually, Cesar Gaviria heeded a recommendation from Alvaro Gomez Hurtado and Rodrigo Marin Bernal and named Jorge Garcia Hurtado, who turned out to be quite an eccentric character. The most benign adjective used to describe him is "extravagant," and more than a few have questioned his sanity! Whatever the case, in matters relating to public monies, Garcia Hurtado has turned out to be a blend of Ayatollah Khomeyni and Laureano Gomez, seeing conspiracies aimed at the public treasury behind every door. For him, things are black and white, with very little grey in between. His view of politicians is typical of any tax man: All politicians steal and politics is no more than looting of the public coffers! Since this image matches that of most Colombians, Garcia Hurtado became an idol and a martyr overnight!

Because of this radicalism, the inspector has ended up being a thorn in the side of all politicians and, in a way, the entire system. The most difficult step between the new and old constitutions has been the transition from the world with aid to one without. In the eagerness to ban aid for political purposes, there was no regulation of the constitutional transition from the so-called "good" aid, that earmarked for social, academic, or cultural purposes.

In the midst of this morass of interpretations, a number of confusing legal situations arose concerning the payment of indiscriminate aid that could be considered as being in flagrant violation of the constitution. In general, the proper authorities handled these cases wisely, based more on the presumption of good faith than the content of the law. As a result of this attitude, most of those involved went free, although there were exceptions such as that of Juan Martin Caicedo and his secretaries and advisers who went to prison.

In contrast with this flexible attitude, the inspector turned out to be as rigid as a rail. The presumption of good faith does not apply to him. Not only does he adhere to the letter of the law, but he goes even further in what he deems to be fulfillment of his duties. Garcia Hurtado has been accused of infringing upon areas that are not within his competency, which is limited to preventing public monies from being diverted to election campaigns. The problem lies in the fact that the inspector believes that in Colombia, there are no election campaigns with set dates, only a continuing campaign that never ends.

Based on this assumption, he has reached the conclusion that all public activity can be election-related and, consequently, that all government spending can eventually be used on elections.

This radical interpretation and the action of the Office of Treasury Inspector deriving from it have created a problem of monumental dimensions.

The inspector, who was expected to make an audit during the pre-election period of the foundations used by members of Congress, is now harassing top government officials for all major decisions on public spending. He has filed suit against the national budget for being arbitrary in incorporating powers in violation of its own organic law on the budget. The Constitutional Court is now studying the suit. He has also gone after the development plan passed by CONPES [National Council for Economic and Social Policy]. The argument in this case is that the development plan must be drafted with the participation of "civil society" and passed by Congress. Consequently, a document emanating from a closed group of ministers and technocrats is lacking in legal validity.

In addition, he has filed suit against Minister of Finance Rudolf Hommes for diverting over 600 billion pesos to the different regions of the country. The minister claims it is merely a matter of a different accounting interpretation, but this has not convinced Garcia Hurtado.

Concerning the election campaigns, the inspector has announced that he intends to set a limit for the amounts of contributions from the private sector for the purpose of preventing the "plutocracy" from controlling the elections. This is unquestionably a praiseworthy objective, but many think it is not directly related to his function, which is to audit the use of public monies in elections, not of private funds.

As if this were not enough, the inspector decided to confront COLFUTURO [Foundation Granting Scholarships for Overseas Postgraduate Studies] directly. The First Lady's controversial foundation has been reported by several sectors, not simply because of the legal nature of the resources, but their purpose as well. A number of candidates have stated that the money can be used for election purposes. Based on such reports, Garcia Hurtado had complete powers to investigate, which he did. He presented a report in which he reached the conclusion that the First Lady's scholarships were not being used for election purposes. However, he immediately proceeded to question the legality of all contributions and to request investigations for the officials responsible. This is a very popular position and many of the government's critics share it. Nevertheless, there is again talk of exceeding his duties since the inspector is only empowered to prevent the diversion of public resources to political campaigns.

Curiously enough, however, the inspector's worst problems have been in the area of action most closely related to his duties. This was the case of ICETEX [Colombian

Institute for Educational Credits and Overseas Technical Studies], where there was a great deal of politicking through funds from scholarships used by congressmen. Even in this area, the inspector's action has been controversial, for he froze that entity's funds after the elections and not during the preceding three months, as stipulated by Decree 293 of 1991 regulating the inspector's duties. It is because of this difference in dates that the High Council of the Judiciary decided to remove him, arguing that it was a flagrant violation of the law. The inspector responded that he did not share the interpretation of the norm with respect to the chronological restrictions because, he says, the same decree contains a provision empowering him to take action when he deems it suitable. "I am not a cop for only three months, as some claim.... I am a cop all the time," he told SEMANA.

Stepping on Toes

This full-time cop has stepped on so many toes that no one knows what to do with him. The politicians do not even want to see him and the government fears that if the inspector wins his suits, government administration may be paralyzed. Against such a backdrop, the "hot potato" was passed to the High Council of the Judiciary. In a previous incident a few months ago, the ad hoc prosecutor, Gustavo Zafra, asked for the removal of the inspector for exceeding his duties in the case of ICETEX. Garcia Hurtado disputed the ruling, arguing that only the High Council of the Judiciary has power over him. This body is a creation of the new constitution and it replaces the old Disciplinary Tribunal, which is responsible for examining the conduct of officials in the Judicial Branch and sanctioning them if there is cause.

After reviewing the entire case two weeks ago, the Council asked the president to remove the inspector. The grounds for the measure were supplied by those invoked by ad hoc prosecutor Zafra, i.e., exceeding his powers and violating the law. The latter holds that the freezing of ICETEX funds 11 days after the elections is illegal inasmuch as that measure could only have been taken during the 90 days before the elections. Miryam Donato de Montoya, member of the Council's disciplinary chamber and the judge who reported the resolution asking for Garcia's resignation, told SEMANA: "Not only was the freezing of those funds illegal, but it had traumatic consequences for a number of persons whose education is being paid for by ICETEX." She added that if the Council decides not to sanction a violation of the law by a high-ranking official, it would lose all moral authority to sanction any other in the future. "Violating the law is very serious, but it is far more serious if it is done by those entrusted with the task of enforcing it."

The removal request created a storm that has not died down two weeks later. Two charges have been leveled against the High Council because of this decision: first of all, that it is a political decision made by a body representing political interests; and second, that it is an illegal decision since the High Council of the Judiciary has no power to remove the inspector.

The accusation of politicization has some validity. After many intrigues and negotiations, the High Council of the Judiciary was elected by Congress in a shameful episode which the press labeled the "Persian market." Its members were recommended by political leaders and there has been talk of the politicization of justice ever since. Since those most affected by the inspector's actions are congressmen, one could deduce that they have the greatest interest in getting out of it through their "friends" on the Council.

Cited as proof that it was a political decision is the fact that voting on the removal was along generally partisan lines. Of the seven judges, five, all Liberals, voted for the removal. Abstaining were Pastrana Conservative Romulo Gonzalez and the M-19's Alvaro Echeverri. The only Conservative vote against was that of Camilo Noguera Aaron, who voted for the removal.

It is difficult to determine what relationship there is between the current Council and the Congress that elected it. Although the body is political in origin and most of those elected were judges, to label them as mere patronage pawns may be an exaggerated interpretation. However, even if everyone voted his conscience, the presentation of the entire episode is terrible. Few things are so badly looked-upon as the fact that those inspected can remove the inspectors! In this case, those inspected are congressmen and not the High Council of the Judiciary, but given the origin of the creature, many think the umbilical cord has not been completely cut!

Exabrupto

The other problem is that of the legality of the ruling on which the request for the inspector's removal is based. This is the source of another controversy, and not even high-ranking jurists have reached agreement on the matter. There is a series of questions: Is the inspector an official from the jurisdictional branch, in which case he would be within the sphere of the High Council of the Judiciary? Or does he belong to the election organs? Or is the Office of Inspector an agency of political control? Assuming he is considered an official from the Judicial Branch and therefore falling within the competency of the Council, it would still have to be determined whether the inspector can be removed, inasmuch as the law makes it clear that he can be fined or suspended. Finally, assuming that he can be legally removed, the proportionality between the violation of which he is accused and the punishment meted out to him remains to be established.

What is clear from all the foregoing is that there is a total lack of clarity concerning the legality of the act of removal (see box [not reproduced]). Under the circumstances and given the delicate political implications, it would have been prudent to abide by the traditional maxim: When in doubt, abstain.

Loose Cannon

In sum, the response to the inspector's exabruptos was a legal exabrupto, which caused debate to be politicized to an unusual extent. The government and the Liberal bench in Congress want the inspector out, not so much because he is inspecting them, but because they view him as a loose cannon that does not allow them to govern. The Conservatives and the M-19 see in this an opportunity to make some political hay out of the fight against corruption, which is what currently pays the best dividends. The dish is so delicious that it has united the two Conservative factions, which would have seemed impossible only a few days ago. Paradoxically enough, the only person who seems not to be motivated by political considerations is the inspector himself. All his excesses rather obey a high Messianic moralism that clashes with complex contemporary political realities.

Things were definitely made easier for President Gaviria, who is required to comply with the petition of the High Council of the Judiciary. Meeting this obligation will certainly not cause him any great pain.

* Tariffs on Military Equipment May Be Eliminated

93P20240 Santa Fe de Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 14 Jul 93 p B1

[Excerpt] As part of a new strategy to strengthen the public security forces and guarantee security in the petroleum basin, the government is preparing to eliminate tariffs on imported military equipment.

The measure, which is expected to be adopted in connection with the state of internal disturbance, will allow for a substantial reduction in operating costs insofar as the purchase abroad of spare parts and other supplies intended for the Army, the Police, the Navy, and the Air Force is concerned.

The annual payment of taxes for bringing goods of this type into the country exceeds 20 billion pesos.

With regard to the country's overall budget for 1994, the investment plan for security and defense is expected to reach some 100 billion pesos.

Of that amount, approximately 30 billion pesos—that is, 30 percent—is intended for the Air Force for the purpose of maintaining and repairing airplanes and helicopters.

Of the 100 billion pesos in investment, 15 billion will be earmarked for the National Police and the remaining 85 billion will go to the Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Among the most important investment projects is the construction of installations for the 16th Army Brigade, located in Yopal, with 8 antiinsurgency battalions, to which more than 3,000 men are expected to be assigned. [passage omitted]

Paraguay

Authentic Radical Liberal Party Vice President Resigns

PY0508205393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 2 Aug 93 p 9

[Excerpt] Personal differences among Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, are getting worse despite the desire for unity expressed at the PLRA national convention on 31 July. Miguel Angel Martinez Yaryes resigned as vice president and PLRA Executive Board member because Nelson Garcia Ramirez was appointed as an alternate member of the party's Court of Honor.

It appears that Martinez Yaryes was upset because in the past, when he was director of the party mouthpiece EL RADICAL, Garcia Ramirez wrote an article that prompted General Otelo Carpinelli Yegros to file a criminal lawsuit for slander and libel. Garcia Ramirez refused to take responsibility for the article, forcing Martinez Yaryes to do it as newspaper director. [passage omitted]

Peru

CCD Approves Presidential Reelection for One Term

PA0508131893 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1204 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] After a prolonged and heated debate, the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] on the evening of 4 August approved immediate presidential reelection for one term only, not indefinite reelection. The vote was 51 in favor and 24 against.

The greatest surprise came from progovernment Congressman Reinaldo Roberts, who voted against reelection, and Independent Moralization Front [FIM] representatives Cesar Larrabure and Julio Chu, who voted in favor. Some say they may be expelled from the FIM, the leader of which is Fernando Olivera.

[Begi[illegible]nidentified speaker recording] During the nominal vote, each congressman expressed his views on presidential reelection. We have just received the official results: 51 votes in favor, 24 against. There have been a few surprises. FIM's Fernando Olivera voted against reelection, but Cesar Larrabure and Julio Chu voted in favor. All the Change 90/New Majority Movement Coalition members voted in favor, with the exception of Reinaldo Roberts, president of the Economy Commission, who voted against reelection. [end recording]

* Bolona Comments on Political Hierarchy, Reelections

93SM0354A Lima SI in Spanish 21 Jun 93
pp 22-23, 79

[Interview with Carlos Bolona, former economy minister, by correspondent Laura Puertas Meyer; place and date not given]

[Text] [Puertas Meyer] You are the director of an AFP [investment agency] called "Horizonte" [Horizon]. Does it not seem a little unethical for you to have developed the concept of the AFP's and now to have a share in one of them?

[Bolona] In the first place, my associate and I each hold 3 percent of the shares in Horizonte. Furthermore, I believe that, as I have returned to the private sector, I have every right to make money. If the contrary were true, I could not do anything, because it would be unethical.

[Puertas Meyer] Supporting the coup d'etat of 5 April was not ethical, either.

[Bolona] The truth is that I was not prepared to defend the concentration of power in the hands of President Garcia. Now I have decided to stay in Peru, show my face, and defend my ideas.

[Puertas Meyer] Why did you compare former President Alan Garcia with Abimael Guzman, the leader of Shining Path?

[Bolona] I did this so that the harm which Garcia did to the country during his administration would be down in writing, should it occur to anyone in the future that he might be a good presidential candidate.

[Puertas Meyer] Do you not think that the comparison was a bad way for you to return to Peruvian politics?

[Bolona] In the first place, I have no political ambitions. Furthermore, I already said that a year ago on Radio Programas [Radio Programs].

[Puertas Meyer] But you are calling him a murderer.

[Bolona] No. I say that he destroyed the Peruvian economy. It has been proved, with statistics, that Garcia did more damage to the country in economic terms than Guzman. That makes him a more efficient terrorist.

[Puertas Meyer] The same argument could be used against you. It could be said that your economic policy made many people die of hunger.

[Bolona] In three years President Garcia destroyed the country. He increased the external debt from $13 to $20 billion. However, attacking Garcia does not mean attacking APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance].

[Puertas Meyer] Do you see yourself as a future opponent of President Alberto Fujimori?

[Bolona] I see myself as a person who has to promote a program so that we will move more quickly, so that we will be successful. And obviously, therefore, the government of Fujimori and Peru are going to have this.

[Puertas Meyer] Would you call the Fujimori government authoritarian?

[Bolona] President Fujimori has to delegate some of his power. Peru should show its good intentions toward the external sector in terms of human rights, the independence of the different branches of the government, etc.

[Puertas Meyer] The "Tancazo" was not exactly evidence of the separation of powers.

[Bolona] It was a bad and unnecessary signal.

[Puertas Meyer] In the economic area is Minister of Economy Camet carrying out the program which you developed and defended to the very end?

[Bolona] You have to keep to the main lines of the program, because there are always temptations to change direction. It would be a disaster once again to follow a policy of populism.

[Puertas Meyer] Was Camet your best successor or would Jaime Yoshiyama have done a better job, in your view?

[Bolona] Minister of Economy Camet has made progress in returning Peru to the international economy, but he has not continued in other directions, such as privatization. Yoshiyama was more in touch with the situation, but he had to fill another position as important or perhaps more important than that of minister of economy, since he was also president of Congress.

[Puertas Meyer] What do you criticize in Camet?

[Bolona] He should stand up and be counted and defend his reforms. The process of liberalization must have an identifiable face, and that should be the face of the minister of economy.

[Puertas Meyer] And not the face of the president?

[Bolona] The president should be above such things.

[Puertas Meyer] What role did Santiago Fujimori play or is he playing in the government? Do the cabinet ministers talk more with him than with the president himself?

[Bolona] Yes, and I believe that this is increasingly the case. He has probably turned himself into a kind of filter between the cabinet and the president.

[Puertas Meyer] What was your relationship with Santiago Fujimori?

[Bolona] I had a very good relationship with Santiago. Furthermore, I discussed many laws with him. Santiago is a lawyer, and government decrees were worked out with him.

[Puertas Meyer] And then President Fujimori simply agreed to them?

[Bolona] It was not as simple as that.

[Puertas Meyer] In your view has the present Congress been able to show its independence of the president?

[Bolona] I do not know about its independence, but it is a Congress which is doing what the majority of the people want.

[Puertas Meyer] In any case, is it more or less independent than the Congresses in which there also was a majority, such as those during the administrations of Presidents Belaunde and Garcia?

[Bolona] I believe that Congress under the Accion Popular [Popular Action] administration was more independent than Congress under the APRA. Now, it seems to me that it is much too early to evaluate how independent this Congress is.

[Puertas Meyer] In the investigation of the disappearances of La Cantuta, did Congress act independently?

[Bolona] In that case it followed the president very closely, but that is an isolated case. On that basis we cannot draw a general conclusion.

[Puertas Meyer] But it was one example.

[Bolona] You would have to look at several examples.

[Puertas Meyer] What is your view of this government's record regarding respect for human rights?

[Bolona] There is such a vacuum on that subject that Jorge Camet, the minister of economy, had to take over the position of foreign minister and go to defend the image of Peru.

[Puertas Meyer] In your view, since you have played with political parties, as Belmont would say, what is the relationship between the administration and the armed forces? For example, let us talk about the laws against terrorism. How did the cabinet participate in the drafting of those laws?

[Bolona] This is not a matter of learning one fine day about new standards in EL PERUANO. The standards came from the respective sectors, such as defense or home affairs, and each one of us expressed our opinion. Nevertheless, and this does not mean that I am trying to avoid my responsibilities, the cabinet ministers were the experts on the matter.

[Puertas Meyer] Can Fujimori govern independently of the military? Who is really in control of the country?

[Bolona] In Peru, since the beginning of the republican period, you cannot govern independently of the military. We have not reached a sufficient level of institutional maturity—and this is the case with all of Latin America—to make the armed forces stay out of political life in the various countries.

[Puertas Meyer] Isn't the fact that Captain (Retired) Vladimiro Montesinos, an intelligence official and presidential adviser, has refused to pay attention to a supposedly independent Congress a sign of who gives orders to whom?

[Bolona] I have never met Montesinos.

[Puertas Meyer] The once favorite cabinet minister never met the favorite adviser?

[Bolona] I have never even crossed his path. Regarding Congress, I believe that it has the power to call on anyone it considers convenient to give testimony. It has the power to do so, and it is up to Congress to exercise it.

[Puertas Meyer] Do you not think that providing for early elections would damage our relationships with the outside world?

[Bolona] Quite sincerely, I have never tried to strike a balance between the pro's and con's of possibly speeding up the elections. However, I recognize that this could be an element which might play a role in political calculations. In the view of some people it could mean a gesture toward greater democracy. In the view of other people, no.

[Puertas Meyer] As a former government official, can you tell me if there is an institution which could oversee proper use of the resources of the executive branch of the government? I refer specifically to the official propaganda which is seen every day on television, those many people sitting there, applauding and chanting that "everyone has an opportunity."

[Bolona] The Ministry of Economy has to see how the various appropriations are divided. However, once that happens, the MEF [Ministry of Economy and Finance] loses control over what happens next. The Office of the Controller of the Republic would be the body to watch how the various appropriations are spent. Obviously, Congress must perform its function of checking on the process.

[Puertas Meyer] Do you agree with the idea of reelecting the president?

[Bolona] The immediate reelection of the president? Yes. A good president might perfectly well be elected once again.

[Puertas Meyer] What marks would you give President Fujimori: bad, average, good, or very good?

[Bolona] I believe that he has had the courage to do a series of things, both in the economic field and in terms

of the pacification of the country. Compared with some other presidents, he certainly has done a better job.

[Puertas Meyer] And if you would have to give him a mark on a scale of zero to 20?

[Bolona] I would not mark him but I consider that he would pass.

[Puertas Meyer] Would he get a mark of 11 on 20?

[Bolona] He would pass. He would pass, because the previous presidents are now history.

* Narcotics, Terrorism in Upper Huallaga Assessed

93WD0701Z Lima CARETAS in Spanish 1 Jul 93 pp 26-31, 88

[Article by Fernando Rospigliosi and Jimmy Torres]

[Text] At midmorning on Saturday, 26 June, General Jose Aliaga, chief of the Sixth Air Region, arrived in a small plane at the Tocache airport, one of the 14 in Upper Huallaga under FAP [Peruvian Air Force] control for slightly over a year. There, he was scheduled to board a helicopter to fly over the zone and observe the status of the clandestine airstrips neutralized or destroyed by the Air Force during the past few months.

However, waiting for him with the FAP commander in charge of the Tocache group was an Army major currently in command of his institution's detachment (its commander was in Tarapoto). The major was requesting urgent assistance to help one of his patrols, which had been ambushed and was surrounded by terrorists on a site near Punta Arenas. The soldiers had been holding out for about two hours, but he did not know how much longer they could withstand the harassment from a Shining Path column.

General Aliaga told him that they would get ready and, within a few minutes, the Soviet-made MI-17 recently purchased from Nicaragua took off for the Army base in Tocache. There, they dropped off the major, a captain, and 22 Army troops. That was all that the helicopter was able to carry (it could usually hold between 30 and 35 men), because it contained too much fuel, not having been prepared for that mission.

With tense expressions and hands clutching rifles, the officers and troops scanned the dense brush seeking their comrades. After a few minutes of flight (by land, they would spend hours covering that distance through the jungle maze), they spotted the site of the confrontation. The FAP helicopter landed on the sports field of a small settlement. The soldiers jumped from the helicopter (under such conditions, the ladder is not released), which immediately took off. The MI-17's fly armed with three machine guns and 124 rockets, but they lack armor because they are for transport, unlike the M-25's, which are armored attack helicopters.

The aircraft flew over the zone to comply with another Army request: to "fire rockets" at the Shining Path positions. Although it is almost impossible to spot the terrorists in the middle of the jungle, the helicopter flew over the terrain and discharged a salvo of rockets over the Shining Path's possible position, and then left.

About 1130 that morning, two police helicopters based in Santa Lucia had been fired upon in Puerto Pizana, a few minutes' flight from the site where the battle described had taken place.

A short distance away, in the town of Sion, an Army detachment and another from the FAP, responsible for guarding the airport, are living in barracks half submerged in the mud, as a means of protecting themselves from a possible Shining Path attack. Shining Path's "principal column," which travels through that region, consists of about 250 terrorists, 60 or 70 of whom are provided with long-range weapons. Sion, the previous site of the SL command center in Upper Huallaga (Abimael Guzman is claimed to have been there), is a prize coveted by the terrorists. Today, however, Sion is a wretched town, without drinking water or electric lighting, which has languished since the fleeting coca prosperity, as have many other settlements in the area.

During the past two weeks, seven Army members have been killed, and another 15 wounded, in three different confrontations with the "terrucos" [terrorists], who suffered several dozen casualties.

Such is the everyday reality in Upper Huallaga, concealed by the avalanche of triumphalist reports disseminated by the government for political and electoral purposes. Although terrorism and the drug traffic have had a setback in the region during the past four years, it is far removed from pacification.

The Mushroom and the FAP

There are two factors that have caused the decline of the once flourishing drug traffic. One is the proliferation of the *fusarium* mushroom, which is killing the coca plants (and other crops) in the region. The second is the presence of the Air Force, which has taken control of 14 airports in the zone, and is doing an effective job of destroying clandestine runways. It is also intercepting flights, despite the limited resources available to it.

On 9 April 1992, the FAP unexpectedly invaded Upper Huallaga. It was a political measure by Alberto Fujimori, one that he needed to find justification for the coup that he had just consummated. Since one of his excuses was the battle against the drug traffic, he had to show some action, and hastened the Air Force's entry. Several months later, the Sixth Territorial Air Region (VI RAT) was created.

Its command center is located at the Santa Lucia police base, where officers and technicians are housed in tents

previously used by the police, who have now been transferred to modern facilities constructed with U.S. aid.

The VI RAT has about 1,000 troops and several helicopters and propeller planes for confronting the drug traffickers.

However, the equipment at their disposal is insufficient for the battle that they are waging. Their best aircraft is the T-27 Toucan, a training plane of Brazilian make that can also be adapted for combat. Nevertheless, it has great limitations.

The Toucans develop a speed of 180 knots (320 km) per hour, whereas the small Colombian planes reach 240 and even 270 knots (from 430 to 480 km) per hour. In other words, if they fail to catch the drug dealers on the runway (or while they are taking off or landing), it is very difficult to intercept them.

The small planes carrying drugs also have meteorological radar, an inertial navigation system, and other sophisticated instruments.

Their stay on the ground is minimal. They take about three minutes to unload the drugs, and can land at night because the Colombians have developed a portable but highly effective marking system. Whether on clandestine landing strips constructed in the brush, or using sections of the Marginal Highway, the "narcos" carry on pickup trucks a small electric motor and two cable lines, with incandescent lamps that they install on the runway. When the small plane approaches, they turn the lights on. Another pickup truck carrying the drugs is being driven around, and approaches only when the aircraft is landing. The entire operation lasts no longer than half an hour.

In spite of everything, the drug traffic has had a setback in the Upper Huallaga zone. The FAP has destroyed or neutralized 15 landing strips and brought down 16 small planes. The use of night vision systems has made airplane and helicopter flights by night possible, deterring the drug dealers, whose policy consists of avoiding confrontations (if they can), and seeking the least dangerous sites. Therefore, they have moved farther south, to Palmapampa and San Francisco (see following article).

Setback for the Drug Traffic

The Air Force's presence has reduced the illicit drug traffic considerably, claims FAP Major General Jose Aliaga Rodriguez, chief of the Sixth Air Region, pointing to the map at his small office in Santa Lucia. Aliaga maintains: "In the areas that we control in Upper Huallaga the entry of invading planes has disappeared totally."

After the FAP took control, in early 1992, the small Colombian planes increased their night flights to evade the surveillance. However, the improvement in the detection system, including the use of night vision systems by the pilots, has now denied them that opportunity as well. In the past, approximately 40 to 50 flights per month were estimated; now, they have declined to 20, but are in the south. General Aliaga emphatically claims that they have been cut totally, with zero flights, in this part of Upper Huallaga. However, there are still flights in Pampa Hermosa and Aguaytia.

General Aliaga indicates that the drug traffickers' planes take different routes now, flying from Colombia to Brazil, and entering Peru through the southeast. There have been reports of drugs being taken out by way of Palmapampa, San Francisco, Puerto Victoria, Puerto Inca, Puerto Bermudez, Puerto Ocopa, and Satipo.

The collectors of basic cocaine paste transport it along the river to those locations, where the small Colombian planes pick it up.

Aliaga reports that the FAP is performing three tasks in the extensive area included in the new Sixth Air Region (created in June 1992). The first is surveillance and control of the air space; the second, control of the airports; and third, the destruction and neutralization of clandestine runways.

The airports seized by the FAP number 14. They control the air traffic, and the personnel and airplane crews, providing aeronautical services including flight information. As an exception, they perform customs and police functions, searching passengers and postal packages, as well as serving as internal security at the airports.

The Sixth Region's headquarters is located in Santa Lucia. All planes flying in that area must be reported there, and flight plans are authorized from there. All commercial planes, large and small, are required to spend the night at the bases controlled by the FAP.

Finally, General Jose Aliaga expresses his concern over the area's social and economic problems. He comments: "There is great poverty in these towns and, with the repression of the drug traffic, that poverty has become worse. The campesino is the one who suffers most, living very poorly, and exploited by the drug traffickers. A policy must be developed to protect the campesino, so that he can substitute for his crop. There is also a need for taking a rural land census, and for building highways to the sierra and the coast."

Aliaga concludes by saying that the FAP cooperates insofar as it can, devising civic action plans, but with its own resources. He claims that they are insufficient to meet the population's needs, and that support from other government agencies is required.

The Future of Upper Huallaga

Although the drug traffic is obviously declining in an extensive portion of Upper Huallaga, the problem is far from disppearing. The traffic has moved farther south,

and the volume of basic cocaine paste exported apparently has not changed substantially.

The region's towns, previously flourishing, are poorer than ever now. The fleeting wealth from the drug traffic has left nothing. The promises of alternative development have been confined to speeches and paper.

Although subversion has been driven from the cities, it remains in the rural areas, and is far from exterminated. Furthermore, it could acquire a new impetus if the state of neglect and poverty devastating the region persists.

Far more is required than the victorious excursions of General Nicolas Hermoza and the triumphalist statements of Alberto Fujimori to defeat terrorism and the drug traffic, and to prevent that region's continued submersion in poverty and despair.

[Box, p 30]

Strategically located in the town of Yurimaguas, a U.S. radar system is detecting the small planes entering Peruvian territory in order to transport basic cocaine paste to Colombia. The problem lies in the fact that the radar is old, with major defects, and spends most of its time in maintenance. Its operation is very expensive.

The radar, built in 1960, was later "repowered." Its operating range is approximately 500 km, and it is run by U.S. military personnel with two FAP officers. According to their account, the radar operates 24 hours a day and, as a result of its action, flights of unidentified aircraft have declined 90 percent. Since 16 June there has not been a single unidentified plane in the area.

Nevertheless, CARETAS queried other highly reliable sources, who gave a less optimistic account, although they admitted that the radar is having a deterrent effect. The first problem is that the radar has a major error in one of its dimensions: altitude. This means that it can detect the direction of a plane, but is wrong by several hundred meters regarding its altitude. Therefore, it becomes very difficult for the interceptor plane to find the invading small plane. (According to the radar operators, the error is normal: only 30 meters off.)

The third problem is that its operation is very expensive. Currently, its maintenance is being paid by the Americans. Every time there is a problem, they request the spare parts from the United States, where they have an extensive supply network. Now, however, they want to transfer it to the FAP, which would have to pay the high costs out of its tight budget. For this reason, there is resistance to accepting the transfer of the radar.

Venezuela

Miranda State Governor Decrees Curfew for Minors

PA0508202593 Paris AFP in Spanish 1911 GMT 5 Aug 93

[Text] Caracas, 5 Aug (AFP)—Miranda Governor Arnoldo Arocha, who exercises control over a large part of Caracas, has decreed a curfew between 2100 and 0500 for individuals under the age of 18. The governor established the curfew in view of the increasing wave of violence in the country, it was officially reported on 5 August.

The decree prohibits unaccompanied minors from being on Miranda State streets, avenues, and highways at the risk of being arrested by police.

Arocha indicated that the decree is intended to reduce risks to minors in view of increasing drug use, gambling, and social instability.

According to police statistics, an average of 30 persons, mostly minors, fall victim to violence every weekend.

In July alone, 15 children between the ages of two and 16 were shot to death.

Foreign Debt Payments Consume 25 Percent of 1994 Budget

PA0608042493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2222 GMT 3 Aug 93

[Text] Caracas, 3 Aug (EFE)—Venezuela will allocate some $2.7 billion for the payment of its foreign debt in 1994, which is 25 percent of its budget, Coordination and Planning Minister Hernan Anzola said on 3 August.

The Venezuelan official said debts with foreign banks obstruct efforts being made to overcome the current economic crisis and hurt the possibilities of improving Venezuelan citizens' living conditions. "For the common citizen, payment of foreign debt is a serious problem, but for investors it is a great business because debt titles yield higher earnings than international banks," Anzola said.

As for the difficulties faced by the authorities when trying to reduce the debt, the planning minister said the government is forced to pay off part of its old debt with new debts. "We use up new resources to pay off our old debts. We also use up part of the 'fresh money' coming from the privatization of public assets to pay off interests, which is not very beneficial because the debt does not become a productive investment," Anzola said.

The mechanism by which every payment leads to a debt increase has turned the Venezuelan foreign debt, estimated in some $28 billion five years ago, into nearly $35 billion.

The foreign debt issue has been in the news since Venezuelan Humberto Celli, president of the Latin American Parliament, told the Latin American Regional Group to consult the International Court of Justice at The Hague about the legitimacy of the foreign debt. Prominent Venezuelans have pointed out that a good portion of the foreign debt was illegally contracted by means of schemes between corrupt politicians and bankers who provided the funds without meeting the guarantees that are usually demanded by financial institutions. Those who are asking for a more "sincere handling" of the foreign debt problem argue it is unfair to pay off the debt used up by the minority that contracted it at the expense of the Latin American peoples, who have endured sacrifices and shortages.